

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WARREN

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

The Cornerstone

SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION



Rev. Bette Bond



*The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.
I will advise you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8 NLT*

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! No, you didn't read that wrong. It's NOT January 1st, but **September**. For some of us, the new year begins in September. Think of school starting, whether you are a student or teacher. It's also usually the beginning of the Jewish calendar, starting with Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). This year, however, the "new year" for the Jewish calendar is in **October**. According to Jewish belief, Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the universe! It is the day that God created everything. Ten days after Rosh Hashanah (which varies from year to year because of the calendar), is the holiest day of the Jewish year, Yom Kippur. It is a time to reflect on the year, repent of wrongs we have done, and is a period of fasting and intensive prayer. These two holidays (holy days) typically fall in late September or early October.

While we typically make our "resolutions" and plans for a new year of living on the first day of January, this is also a good time of year to "take stock" of where we are, where we have been and where we are going - Individually - as a community - as a church.

Autumn is often seen as a time of transition - for the earth and all living things - animals, plants, trees. We can physically see the changes around us - sun setting earlier, brilliant green grass fading to a bit gold, leaves turning red and yellow, more geese overhead, etc. What might be the changes within US? How are we moving forward, letting go, changing?

September is a beautiful month - I call it a BONUS month because the weather is still wonderful, and we get to enjoy an elongated summer. Don't think of it as an end of summer and vacation - think of it as a time to begin new things, reflect and renew ourselves.

Pastor Bette 🍁 🍂

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- Sept. 4 - Wed. 12noon
Missions meeting
- Sept. 5 - Thurs. 4:00pm
Deacon meeting
- Sept. 9 - Mon. 10:00am
Ladies Circle Meeting
- Sept. 9 - Mon. 6:30pm
Caring & Sharing Sisters
- Sept. 12 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Trustee Meeting
- Sept. 28 - Sat. 9:00am
Men's group meeting



Where decisions are made.



Call on me in your day of trouble
Ps. 50:15

Pray

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

A CALL TO ALL CHRISTIANS IN MAINE TO COME TOGETHER AND PRAY FOR OUR STATE.
Pray at your local church.



MAY WE COLLECTIVELY
Ask God

- To give us a God-fearing government in November 2024
- To help us listen to the still small voice as we Pray and Promise to obey

Let us come together believing the promise of God:
"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways. Then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
2nd Chronicles 7:14

For those who feel powerless to make changes in our government and the people in power!

Please join us on Saturday, September 14, 2024, 12-2PM to lift up our congregations, our communities and our country in prayer.

The church will be open from noon to 2 PM for individual prayers, and I will be leading prayer in the sanctuary for groups also. This is a very critical time in the history of our country. We need to discern God's will for us, lift up those who will lead us for God's guidance and wisdom. Invite your friends and neighbors!

~Pastor 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.
Mary Lee Melvin by Carole S.
Gabe DeRaps
Bob Carpenter
Jessica by Sue C.
Sheila A. by Tina B.
Joel Kinney by Janice O.
Alberta Keyes by Raymond W.
Deborah Smith by January P.
Lee Houghton
Joyce Campbell

Stuart Mank
Daniel by Melody S.
Stan Waltz by Melody S.
Brent Lawson by Melody S.
Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Nathan Lanphier by Clint L.
Jim Pacheco
Lois Silloway by Linda L.
Sue Mercier by Linda L.
Wayne Quinn by Robin Q.



Sept. 4 - Karen Carpenter
Sept. 5 - Valerie Miller
Sept. 7 - Regina Gamage
Sept. 10 - Gayle White
Sept. 10 - Tammy Hagin
Sept. 11 - Louise Cornforth
Sept. 14 - Janice Overlock
Sept. 18 - Evelyn Anderson
Sept. 20 - Jeff Creighton
Sept. 29 - Richard Maxcy
Sept. 30 - Lee Houghton

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.



Karen Richards has agreed to take on the job of Church Sexton. If you see her around, please welcome her to the family. She's already done quite a few jobs for us, helping with painting, pressure washing the handicap rails outside, among other little jobs. She will certainly be a good fit for us. But just because we have her, don't stop picking up after yourself. (Smile)



Photos: Irene Maxcy

Garden

VISITOR

Recently while “deadheading” our beautiful garden, Irene Maxcy came across this fascinating creature.

The Praying Mantis.

Praying mantises don’t actually pray in the human sense. Their name comes from their prayer-like posture, where they hold their front legs together as if in prayer. This posture is primarily a hunting stance, allowing them to quickly snatch prey with their powerful front legs.

Seeing a praying mantis could serve as a reminder of God’s teachings about patience, mindfulness, and prayer. However, interpretations can vary, and it’s essential to discern personal experiences in alignment with biblical principles. How can the praying mantis inspire Christians in their spiritual growth?

The world around us is brimming with signs and symbols that hold profound meaning, should we recognize them. The Bible is rich with symbolism, often using metaphors, analogies, and nature to express complex spiritual truths in simpler terms. A basic understanding of this symbolic language can be the key that opens up a deeper understanding of our spiritual life. Just like Jesus spoke in parables to convey profound truths, figurative language invites us to dig deeper, pushing us beyond the superficial to the spiritual.

The insect’s name comes from the Greek word ‘mantis,’ meaning ‘prophet’ or ‘seer.’ When we look at the praying mantis, with its forelegs held together as if in prayer, it is easy to see why it could be associated with spiritual contemplation. Its demeanor invites us to reflect on the importance of patience, stillness, and openness to the divine will in our | spiritual journey.

Let’s embrace the patience of the mantis, waiting on God’s timing. Let’s embody its stillness, making space for quiet reflection and prayer. In doing so, we draw closer to the heart of God, aligning ourselves more closely with His will.

Let’s pray.



MISSIONS ROAD TRIP

On August 7th, the Mission Board went to Boothbay to see first hand the trailers being reconfigured by Boothbay V.E.T.S. (Veterans Emergency Temporary Shelter). We met Ed Harmon, President, and Arthur Richardson, Vice-president, who took us on the grand tour. We were quite impressed with the operation, which is completely run by volunteers and incarcerated women. The trailers are temporary shelter, but the first step toward permanent housing for homeless veterans. At the present time 38 trailers are occupied. We heard Ed say more than once, "We never give up on anyone".



From their website: Our Mission is to provide short term shelter for homeless veterans who do not have immediate access to shelter. At the present, we are partnered with Maine Bureau of Veterans Services to identify current needs.



Our goal is to build a Veterans' Village where we can safely place 8-12 tiny house trailers and construct a community building, with restroom and shower facilities, kitchen, common room, and office space for social workers and clinicians to provide veteran services on site.



In October for Missionfest we hope to have Ed and Arthur here for a Mission Moment and perhaps one of the trailers on site. Missions made a donation on the day we visited, but will also be taking a special collection that day. We know you will be as impressed with their dedication as we were.

For more information visit there website... <https://boothbay-vets.com/>

BIBLE STUDY:



September 3rd at 1PM the book of ACTS Bible study begins.

The book of Acts is a historical account of the birth and growth of the early church and the spread of the gospel after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It focuses on the actions of the apostles, mostly Paul and Peter, who were directed by the Holy Spirit and the teachings of Jesus. It covers the first three decades of the church, from Jerusalem to Rome.



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY - CHILDREN'S RALLY DAY

Sunday September 8th -

Childrens Sunday School Registration and Scavenger Hunt



Life withers life.
Change transforms change.
But You God, are the replenishing light...
Delivering life to my veins.

Music News at Second Congregational Church.

Welcome to Autumn, the season of change, a most beautiful time of year to return to our regular activities and/ or explore new ones. I am extending a welcome to people that like to sing to consider joining our Church Choir as we work together to worship the Lord in song and share in fellowship our love of singing.

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30pm.

Our Hand Bell Choirs will also resume practice on **Wednesday September 18 at 10:30am**. We are in need of 1 to 2 people to fill out our 3 octave set. If you like the sound of the bells and have a sense of rhythm, I (We) can teach you the next steps to playing . This group is a supportive and encouraging group. Are you ready for something new?



Announcing - the Understanding Music Class. Are you Interested in learning more about how to follow or ‘read’ music? Come Explore and learn how to follow music and how it works on Tuesday evenings October 1 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm for 6 weeks. This introductory class is for people that have expressed a desire to participate in our church groups or anyone who wants to learn basic music reading skills and/or are interested in brushing up their music theory skills.

Upcoming Music Out in Our Community:



The Community Christmas Choir (Formerly the Living Christmas Tree Choir) will begin Rehearsals on **Thursday Oct 3** at the Thomaston Baptist Church. JoAnne Parker will direct and yours truly will be accompanying. Anyone interested in more information to participate should contact Bunny Stanley bunnystanley@myfairpoint.net or myself bpachecomusic@me.com

Yours musically, Beverly

NEWS FROM THE MID-COAST COMMUNITY BAND.



**A MILITARY HISTORY IN
MUSIC & NARRATION:**

MAINE BOYS AT WAR

Sunday, September 8th 2024

5:00pm

Watts Hall, Main St. Thomaston



MUSIC BY MIDCOAST COMMUNITY BAND

ORIGINAL NARRATION READ BY BLAIKIE HINES



Donations gratefully accepted!



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

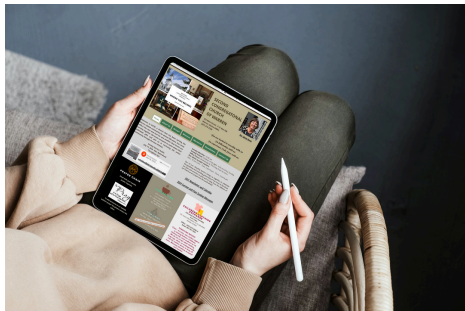
FROM THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

- 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.



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
08/04/24	54	2,635.00	N/A
08/11/24	49	1,459.00	83.00
08/18/24	53	1,040.00	66.00
08/25/24	57	1,257.00	115.00

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

WARREN, MAINE 04864

207.273.2338

SEPTEMBER

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:00am Service @ Bunker Hill NO SERVICE AT SCCW 8 Children's Rally Day 10:00am Service	2 Labor Day	3 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:pm Bible Study	4 BD Karen C 12pm Missions	5 BD Valerie M 9-11am CCE 4:00p Deacon Mtg	6	7
10:00am Service	9 10:00a Ladies Circle 6:30p Caring\Sharing	10 BD Gayle White BD Tammy Hagin 1:pm Bible Study 9-11am Coffee Chat	11 BD Louise C.	12 6:30p Trustee Mtg	13	14 BD Janice O.
15 10:00am Service	16	17 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:pm Bible Study	18 BD Evelyn A	19 9-11am CCE	20 BD Jeff C	21
22 10:00am Service	23	24 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:pm Bible Study	25	26 9-11am CCE	27	28 9:00am Men's Group meeting
29 BD Richard Maxcy 10:00am Service	30 BD Lee Houghton	1 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:pm Bible Study	2	3 9-11am CCE	4	5
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
09/01 Bunker Hill 09/08 Niva-Jean Poland 09/15 Louise Cornforth 09/22 Aleta Mank 09/29 Weston Ames	09/01 Bunker Hill 09/08 Robin Q./Eric O. 09/15 Robin Q./Karen C. 09/22 Susan L./Wes A. 09/29 Michelle B./Cindy B.	09/01 Bunker Hill 09/08 Sandra O. 09/15 Marcia C. 09/22 Sterling R. 09/29 Jeff C	09/01 Bunker Hill 09/08 Clint & Kat Lanphier 09/15 Steve & Betty Davis 09/22 Pat & Sam Chapman 09/29 Linda & Walter Kaler	09/01 Bunker Hill 09/08 The Ladies Circle 09/15 The Congregation 09/22 The Congregation 09/29 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 – Resumes September – Date TBA – Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30am