



MARCH 2025 EDITION

THE CORNERSTONE



Rev. Bette Bond

MARCH MEETINGS

- Mar 3 - Mon. 10:00am
Ladies Circle Meeting
- Mar 3 - Mon. 6:30pm
Caring/Sharing meeting
- Mar. 6- Thurs. 4:00pm
Deacon Meeting
- Mar 13 - Thurs. 6:30pm
Trustee meeting
- Mar 22 - Sat. 9:00am
Men's Group meeting



Where decisions are made.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

I checked the weather for March 1st. Will it come in like a lamb or a lion? So far the weather prediction is 29 degrees, partly cloudy with mild wind. Sounds lamby to me. Does that mean 3/31 will be wild? We shall see.



Just like weather predictions, our life path does not always follow a prescribed course, nor a sure and steady pace. We get those nor'easters, polar vortex, El Niño and La Niña, flash floods and sweltering sun. And like our life journey, the weather is out of our control, out of our hands. We can listen to weather reports, make plans, and hope for the best, but we are ultimately at the mercy of Nature. In our own lives, we can read the Word of God, attend worship, make plans and hope (and pray) for the best, but ultimately God is in control. Does that make us feel better or worse? Knowing an all-knowing and all-seeing Being is in control of things, can be satisfying to some. Others would like to be in control, even without having the power of omniscience or omnipotence.

What did Jesus say? He mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew that the people could interpret the weather signs - if the evening sky is red, fair weather tomorrow. In the morning, a red sky means bad weather on the way. As a child I heard the saying, "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in morning, sailor take warning." We CAN interpret the visible signs in the sky and on meteorology maps. But Jesus warned, "You cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous (unfaithful) generation looks for a "sign" but none will be given..."

We need to pay attention to what God reveals to us through our prayer, worship, meditation and listening to Spirit. It is precisely because we have no control over most things, that our trust should be placed in the One who holds the stars in hand. We readily trust the meteorologist on the nightly news or online. They say rain, we take an umbrella. If they say bitter cold, we bundle up. If they say a winter snowstorm is coming, we run to the store to buy milk, bread and eggs (because blizzards evidently mean French toast for Mainers?) Yet how often are the predictions wrong? Or not as severe as predicted? Or MORE severe than predicted? Yet, we continue to watch (and overwatch) weather reports. We like to FEEL prepared. We like to THINK we know everything that is coming. Be not deceived, my friends. We do NOT.

(Continued next page)

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Continued from Page 1...

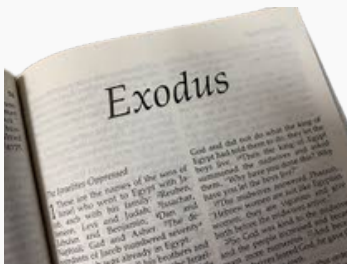
By surrendering our spirit, our will, ourselves to God and trusting, believing and having faith that all will be well (even if it isn't now), we can live lives that are more free, more relaxed and more in tune with Spirit -like Jesus lived. Jesus did not know from where his next meal was coming or if he would have place to sleep on any given night. He did not worry.

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" Matt. 6:25-26

The Prayer of St. Ignatius (not for the faint-hearted): Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. Thou hast given all to me. To Thee, O lord, I return it. All is Thine, dispose of it wholly according to Thy will. Give me Thy love and thy grace, for this is sufficient for me.

Lamb or Lion - we are protected and safe.

Pastor Bette



We will begin a Lenten Bible Study following Ash Wednesday. We will be studying the book of Exodus. We will meet on **Tuesdays at 1 pm for six weeks, starting on March 11** and our last study will be Tuesday, April 15. Please join us as we talk about the wilderness experience, then and now.

ASL Class

We will have a SECOND session of our ASL (American Sign Language) workshop on Saturday, March 1st at 10 a.m. Those who attended the first are invited to come and learn more. If you missed the first one, come and learn with us! See Carolyn Robinson for more details.





“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

There will be a day retreat here at church
on ASH WEDNESDAY (March 5)
from 10 am to 2 pm*

We will center ourselves as we begin the Lenten journey throughout March and most of April. This is a time to just come and BE. It is not a Bible study; we will listen and pray and be silent.

Those at a crossroads in life might take this time to pray and discern God’s next step for them. Those who are stressed and anxious may find this a time of relaxation and renewal. Before leaving, we will have a disposition of Ashes for those who would like.

Lunch will be provided. There is no FEE but **YOU MUST REGISTER** by March 4th. Please email or text or see Pastor Bette if you will attend. Limit 12.

REGISTRATION:

Name: _____

Any dietary restrictions:

*Please intend to stay the entire retreat day, as arriving late or leaving early disrupts the flow and peace of the day!

NOTE: This form will be available on Sunday March 3rd for those who wish to register for this event.



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 designed to inspire you to keep these cherished individuals in your thoughts and prayers throughout the week. If there's someone you'd like to add to this list, please speak with them first and obtain their consent before proceeding. (We understand that this may not always be feasible). If your loved one has experienced the healing grace of God, kindly inform us so we can remove them from the prayer list.

Connie Heath
Bob and Karen Carpenter
Stuart Mank
Jamie by Sterling
Jessica by Sue C.
Joel Kinney by Janice O.
Larry Philbrick
Lee Houghton
Lorraine Strout by Linda K.
Alan W. Mercier by Linda L.

Brent Lawson by Melody S.
Dick Hooey by Brenda K.
Walter Pendleton
Sheila A. by Tina B.
Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Natashia by January
Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.
Sue Mercier by Linda L.
Nathaniel Parkinson by Linda L.

Elijah Kellogg Congregational Church-Harpswell



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

6 Patty Ames
10 Betty Baker
13 Mary Gammon
15 Sterling Robinson
29 Amber Hagin
29 Jim Pacheco
31 Bob Jordan



1 - Joe & Marcia Cifaldo



Music news...

Save the Date!
Sunday May 18, 3:00pm
A Benefit Spring Concert
On A Ring and A Prayer Ensemble and
Mid-Coast Brass Quintet

IMPORTANT DATES & HAPPENINGS

- March 1 - Saturday - 10:00am American Sign Language Class with Heather Meservey
- March 3 - Monday - 10:00am Ladies Circle meeting
- March 3 - Monday - 6:30pm Caring & Sharing Sisters meeting
- March 4 - Tuesday - 9-11:00am Table Talk Tuesday - All welcome
- March 5 - ASH Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season
- March 5 - Wednesday 10:00am - 2:00pm - "Quiet Center" - registration required
- March 6 - Thursday 4:00pm Deacon meeting
- March 9 - Sunday - Spring Forward (don't forget to change your clocks)
- March 11 - 1:00pm Bible Study - Exodus
- March 13 - Thursday 6:30pm Trustees Meeting

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 8:30 am Gentle Chair Yoga with the Mindful Movers - all welcome



AIO PIES ON PARADE – yes, that is right, PoP is back and will be taking place March 14-16.

Pies on Parade is a community-wide event that provides an opportunity for people to sample delicious sweet and savory pies over the course of a weekend, while providing critical support for AIO, which serves all of Knox County.

We are excited to reestablish this weekend-long event in partnership with Rockland’s Limerock Inn and Camden's Blue Harbor House Inn, in honor of AIO’s 35th Anniversary this year.

All ticket sales will benefit AIO’s four programs- Food Assistance, Energy Assistance, Weekend Meal, and Diaper Assistance Programs. 3/14 – “Pi” day and the movie “The Life of Pi” at the Strand 3/15 – More than 20 pie stops in Camden and Rockport 3/16 – More than 20 pies stops in Rockland and Thomaston Tickets are \$20 for one-day ticket or \$35 for a two-day/weekend ticket.

Are you interested in volunteering at Pies on Parade? We are now signing up volunteers to help run this weekend-long event.

Please visit our website for more information and sign up to be a volunteer. Check out our website to volunteer or buy tickets. email@aiofoodpantry.org

(Submitted by Patricia Weaver)



Soup-er Bowl Sunday was delayed a couple of weeks because of snowstorms. The final count did not happen until Sunday the 23rd after our church birthday celebration.

We collected 303 cans/packages and the Warren Baptist Church collected 211.

The real winners are the recipients and clients of the Bread For the Journey Food Pantry!

This month let’s fill our barrel with some of the following items:

- Canned Veggies
- Oatmeal
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup



Plentiful Gifts Program

I am very excited to accept a new position with a new NACCC program. Rev. Irv. Gammon, Rockland Congregational Church, called me in December and told me about a collaboration with the NACCC, Dubuque Theological Seminary and a grant from the Lily Foundation. The program is explained below. He asked if I would be their Mentor, this is quite the honor and also pushing me out of my comfort zone. I feel I am being led by God to do this. We had our first retreat in Connecticut to meet the rest of the churches involved and the mentors, also to have the program explained and some work sessions, I learned so much and will be bringing some of this to our Church. Please keep me in your prayers as I move into an area I have never been before.

"Plentiful Gifts" is a grant-funded partnership between the NACCC and the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. It aims to help small congregations with part-time clergy develop new ministry models and nurture the gifts and talents of lay people. Participating churches will work with the Plentiful Gifts team to explore their identity, community, challenges, and ministry gifts. A small group within each congregation will then receive training and support in areas such as preaching, worship, pastoral care, faith formation, community engagement, and leadership. Each church will have a mentor, and participants will support each other through prayer and biannual gatherings for worship, fellowship, and encouragement. The program requires a two-year commitment, starting with a six-month study phase followed by up to 18 months of tailored learning. Thanks to a grant from the Lily Foundation's "Thriving Congregations Initiative," there is no cost for churches to participate.

The 2025-2026 NACCC participating churches are:

- First Congregational Church, Rockland, Maine
- Congregational Church of Bound Brook, New Jersey
- Oakwood Heights Community Church, Staten Island, New York
- Congregational Church of the Valley, Chandler, Arizona



Plentiful Gifts proposes to identify and work with churches who desire to grow in faith and mission. Plentiful Gifts desires to nourish existing members within those churches to equip them to lead toward this growth instead of relying on full-time paid clergy. Four to six congregations within the NACCC will be enrolled to participate. The Mentor will provide guidance and coaching for a congregation in the Plentiful Gifts initiative in partnership with the NACCC Catalyst, shepherding participant congregations and members, and faithfully applying the grant provisions in ways that meet the particular and contextual needs of the congregations they will mentor.

If you care to know more about this, I would be very happy to speak with you.

~Pat Weaver

When turning 90 is a cause to celebrate



There were quite a few people, family and friends, in attendance at the 90th birthday celebration for Carole Starr on February 1st. Just think....

9 decades of memories includes....

1,080 months of happiness,

4,693 weeks of love,

32,850 days of wisdom,

788,400 hours of laughter!

Carole has been truly blessed for

over 2,838,000,000 seconds.

And she has cherished every moment.

To my Church family...

A BIG thank you to all who attended my birthday celebration. Thank you also for all the nice cards and well wishes. What a wonderful day shared with family and friends. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family!!

God Bless....Carole

With thanks for beautifying our Sacred Space



At the Annual Meeting, Patricia Overlock was recognized for her many years of service to SCCW through flowers!

Year after year, month after month, season after season we always had beautiful flowers to greet us on any Sunday morning.

We look forward with excitement to our newest Flower person, Kathy Lanphier, and wish her well.

1-26-25
To:
The Congregation at our church,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers, card, and gift card at Berley Joes that were given to me at our annual meeting and very much appreciated. It really touched my heart and soul.
Love,
Patty Overlock



MARCH 9TH - SPRING FORWARD

Missions



Argy Nestor says, "I love to sew for children in other countries. I'm so grateful for the support of the Second Congregational Church."

Recently the sewing of 70 dresses and 40 pants were completed by Argy for children in Mpamila Village in Malawi. Missions made a monetary donation used to purchase underwear that were included with each item of clothing. The Children's Clothing Exchange donated 40 shirts to go with the pants and members of the church donated Beanie Babies, which were put in a pocket of each dress or pants. Thank you to all who contributed to this mission made with love!





BOOK NOOK

This month, we're excited to introduce "BOOK NOOK." Occasionally, we will share book recommendations for your enjoyment. If you have any titles you'd like to suggest, please reach out to the office. A big thank you to Louise Cornforth for bringing this idea to our attention!

The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas: (same as the movie - fiction)

A Roman Tribune is ordered to carry out the crucifixion of Jesus (not knowing anything about him); then, winning his robe in a dice game he finds the effects of the robe extraordinary, leading him to learning more about this "King of the Jews".

Sensible Shoes (fiction) by Sharon Garlough Brown:

The present-day spiritual journeys of four (very different) women.

Mark of the Lion (a trilogy - Christian historical fiction) by Francine Rivers:

a tale of persecution (very violent) and perseverance in the lives of Christians and aristocrats in first century Rome.

Book 1: A Voice in the Wind

Book 2: An Echo in the Darkness

Book 3: As Sure as the Dawn



On Sunday, February 23rd, we proudly celebrated 197 years at SCCW. We certainly look fabulous! A big thank you goes out to the church mice for their dedication in keeping our home looking so wonderful. We also appreciate those who brought birthday gifts; your kindness means a lot to us.

A committee has been established to plan for our 200th anniversary in 2028. If you have any ideas to share with them, please reach out to Pat Weaver.

Invitation to all...

Paul Knutson is retiring from Bath Ironworks after 36 years. The lodge and his family are hosting a retirement party at the Warren Odd Fellows Hall on **Saturday March 22nd at 4PM.**

You are invited to celebrate with them for lots of laughs, food, and dancing with their own DJ. BYOB.

For any questions or info call Liz Bean or text her at 691-0710.





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

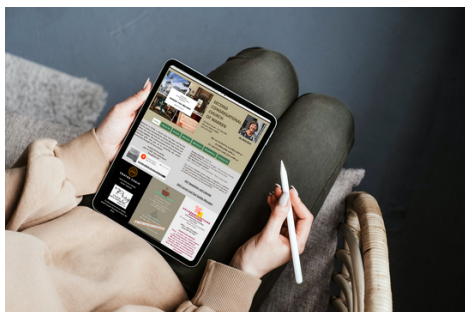


- Current office hours are:
 - Wednesday and Thursday
 - 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Newsletters are sent out via mail and email once a month, typically on or around the first of the month.
- Submissions for the newsletter must be received ON or BEFORE the 28th of each month.
- If you would like a printed newsletter mailed to you, please reach out to the office. Printed copies are available upon request.
- Rev. Bette's office hours for meetings are:
 - Mondays 10 AM to 2 PM
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 PM to 6 PM
 - Please call to schedule a meeting.
- Minutes from all board meetings will be distributed monthly. Kindly submit your notes to the office promptly after a meeting, except for the ladies' and men's groups.
- Council meetings: If you are a member of any board, you automatically become part of the church council, and your attendance at the bi-monthly church council meetings is expected and highly encouraged.



Give a gift at any time. Simple and Secure. 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
02/02	57	\$2328.00	\$406.00
02/09	Service cancelled (Snow)		
02/16	Service cancelled (Snow)		
02/23	52	\$2079.00	\$205.00

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:** Weston Ames - westonames508@gmail.com

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P.O. BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10am ASL Class
2 10:00am Service Scout's Sunday	3 10am Ladies Circle 6:30pm Caring/Sharing	4 9-11am Table Talk	5 LENT begins ASH Wednesday 10am-2pm "Quiet Center"	6 9-11am CCE 4PM Deacon Meeting	7	8
9 10:00am Service First Sunday in Lent Clocks Spring Forward	10	11 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	12	13 9-11am CCE 6:30PM Trustee Meeting	14	15
16 10:00am Service	17	18 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	19	20 9-11am CCE	21	22 9am Men's group
23 10:00am Service	24	25 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	26	27 9-11am CCE	28 Scouts pm	29 Scouts am Pinewood Derby
30 10:00am Service	31	1 APRIL 9-11am Table Talk 1pm Bible Study	2	3 9-11am CCE 4pm Deacon Meeting	4	5
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
03/02 Niva Poland	03/02 Betsy & Betty	03/02 Sandra Overlock	03/02 Sterling & Carolyn	03/02 Men's Group		
03/09 Cindy Bland	03/09 Wes & Tina	03/09 Marcia Cifaldo	03/09 Kat L. & Valerie M.	03/09 Ladies Circle		
03/16 Melody Sainio	03/16 Michele & Betsy	03/16 Sterling Robinson	03/16 Steve & Susan L.	03/16 Congregation		
03/23 Louise Cornforth	03/23 Eric & Gayle	03/23 Jeff Creighton	03/23 Nola S. & Freda H.	03/23 Caring/Sharing		
03/30 Donna Lewis	03/30 Steve & Betty	03/30 Irene Maxcy	03/30 Walter & Linda K.	03/30 Hospitality		

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 – ALL welcome