



THE CORNERSTONE

JANUARY 2023

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren
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Photo credits: Hope Creighton

P A S T O R S P A G E



It's 2023! Much like the page before me while writing this, the future is bright and ready to be written. WE get to write on the pages of this year. We cannot control what comes, but we can choose to control how we react to circumstances, events and all that comes our way in the coming months.

Singer/songwriter Karen Drucker writes about how we tell ourselves "I have to..." as opposed to "I get to...." For instance, instead of saying, "I have to go to work," we are happier when we "GET to go to work," because so many are out of work or don't have a good job. "I have to pay my property tax" turns into a blessing when we "get to pay taxes," because we own land or a home, and so many do not. What things in this coming year do we GET to do?

Personally, I am blessed and full of joy because *I get to come to work* each day, fulfilling my vows to God and being privileged to help others every day! I get to share in others' celebrations and also get to sit with others' pain and suffering. I don't HAVE to do any of those things - **I choose** to do them, because I am blessed and want to be a blessing to others whenever I can. I don't have to serve God and emulate Christ in all my words and deeds, **I GET TO!** The year stretches before each of us - what small things with great love will we GET to do by the grace of God?

2023 - you & me! Let's GET going!

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43: 18-19

Pastor Bette

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Lord, whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties

I pause to *give thanks*.

Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things *new*
and for giving me the grace of fresh starts
and *new beginnings*.

Remind me of your presence in the days to come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by busyness

Be glorified in my life this year. Amen

Heather C. King

Women's Bible Study - We will be studying the book of **Esther** in the Old Testament. We will meet in the Upper Room. Study will begin Monday, January 30th from 12 to 1:30 pm. Those who wish can come early and bring a lunch. We will plan to finish in 6 weeks, on March 6th.



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

Rev. Bill Meyer
Joe Cloutier by Sterling
Eric Overlock
Jackie Gushee by Tina
Colby Ouellette
Betty Philbrook-Collins
Sarah & Sue
Dominic by Carolyn R.
Patrick Leary by Margaret
Jeff & Stacy by Michelle B.
Jan Andrews by Carole S.

Stuart Mank
Romeo Jackson by Melody S
Pam Pitcher by Becky R
Jane Parks by Linda L.
Nathanael Read (age 9)
Alice Calendar by Robin Q.
Bill Gagnon by Janette S.
Diann Lent by Kenny L.
Jim Sukeforth by Becky R.
Erin by Emily B.
Mary Gammon's daughter

Lorraine Strout by Linda K
Arlene y Mark & Jane W
Jane Waltz
Connie Heath
Rev. Wayne Sawyer
Sherry Chadbourne by Gayle
Wayne Quinn by Robin Q.
Jan & Chris by Jane W.
Kurtis (Stacy's son)
Vinny by Robin Q.
Khyllie Cochran by Wes. A



Jan. 4 Faustina Bryant
Jan. 12 John Black
Jan 12 Muriel Knutson
Jan. 19 Stephen Lombardo
Jan. 20 Neil Stetson
Jan. 24 Sherry Ladd
Jan. 24 Jeremy White
Jan. 30 Carolyn Damon
Jan. 30 Niva-Jean Poland



Jan. 01 Ryan & Bridget DiPompo

Enjoy your special days!
If you do not see your name listed,
please contact the office.

What does the month of January symbolize?

January was named for the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways who symbolize **beginnings and endings**. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future.
Flower: Carnation. Birthstone: Garnet
Source: Google

Advent candle lighters...



HOPE – Melody Sainio & Aleta Mank



LOVE – Sam Chapman and Pat Weaver



JOY – Jonathan Dodge & January Peavey



PEACE – Betsy & Merle Vanner

Christmas Eve candlelight service...



Addy helping Sterling with the luminaries.



The church entrance was glowing.



“Silent Night”



Photo credit this page: Becky Ruggieri

How they met. . .

We were asked to bring back the "How they met" series. We are continuing on with Steve & Susan. If you and your spouse or soul mate would like to be featured in this monthly article, please submit a brief story and a photo to the office before the next newsletter.



Steve and Susan Lombardo

Steve and I met in October 1969. Steve had just arrived at his home in Rockland, after he had been serving in the Navy. I had been living in California with my father and step-mother, graduated and decided to come to Maine to visit my mother and relatives and decide what to do with the rest of my life.

I got a temporary job at Van Baleens sewing factory in Rockland where my mother, uncle and grandfather worked. Steve's mother and father worked there too.

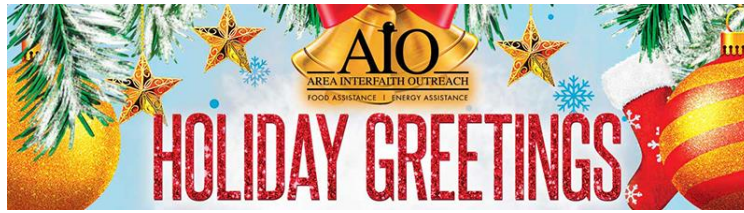
After work one day, Steve came to pick up his mother and had his cousin in the car too. I was standing out front waiting for a taxi and Steve noticed me. He bet his cousin that he could get a date with me. He got the wheels in motion by asking a friend of his parents, who was in management at the factory, ask me several times if I was interested in meeting a nice guy just out of the Navy.



I had been living close to Long Beach, California, where a navy base was located, the idea of a Navy man didn't really interest me. I finally was pestered enough, so I said alright, have him call me. Steve and I talked a few times on the phone and decided to make a date to go dancing at the Knox Hotel in Thomaston. When my blind date came to pick me up, I saw what a nice personality he had. After we had danced all night, I realized he was my Soul Mate. I had that feeling of familiarity about him and our souls were meant to be together.

We were married in 1971. We have 2 sons and we are living happily ever after.

~ Susan Lombardo



As a new year approaches, I want to thank all who have contributed so generously to AIO this year—volunteers, clients, donors, and community members—you are the true power behind AIO. Thank you. Over the past year, AIO has grown in many ways. While the increasing numbers tell part of the story, the intangibles genuinely reflect what is happening throughout our organization. The spirit of community is more incredible than I could have ever dreamed. The energy of joy, caring, and love that radiates from our new home is palpable. We have forged new partnerships and collaborations with friends in both the non-profit and for-profit communities, with the shared goal of improving the quality of life for everyone. And, best of all, it's working!

FILL THE STRAND:

AIO Food and Energy Assistance is excited to host its third ***FILL THE STRAND*** food and funds drive on **Monday, January 16 at the Strand Theatre** in Rockland, which is also Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and recognized as a National Day of Service. Our goal is to fill every seat in the historic theater with bags of food and funds to support AIO's programs. In our first two years of our *Fill the Strand* event we raised almost \$50,000 in support. Our goal for our third event is to raise \$25,000.

We invite you to help us reach our goal and fill every seat in the theater! You can help by hosting your own mini food and fund drive within your family, workplace, neighborhood or group. The food and funds collected will go directly to AIO's Food Assistance, Energy Assistance, Weekend Meal, and Diaper Assistance Programs.

Monetary donations are welcome – and in fact your dollar goes further since AIO can purchase food through partners at a competitive price. You can donate a bag of food or sponsor a bag at \$25, both of which will fill one seat in the theater. You can make a donation online at our [website](#), mail a check or come visit us at the Strand on January 16 between 9:00am-2:00pm.

We are also collecting non-perishable food with a current expiration date (no glass please). We would be grateful for donations of the most needed items including:

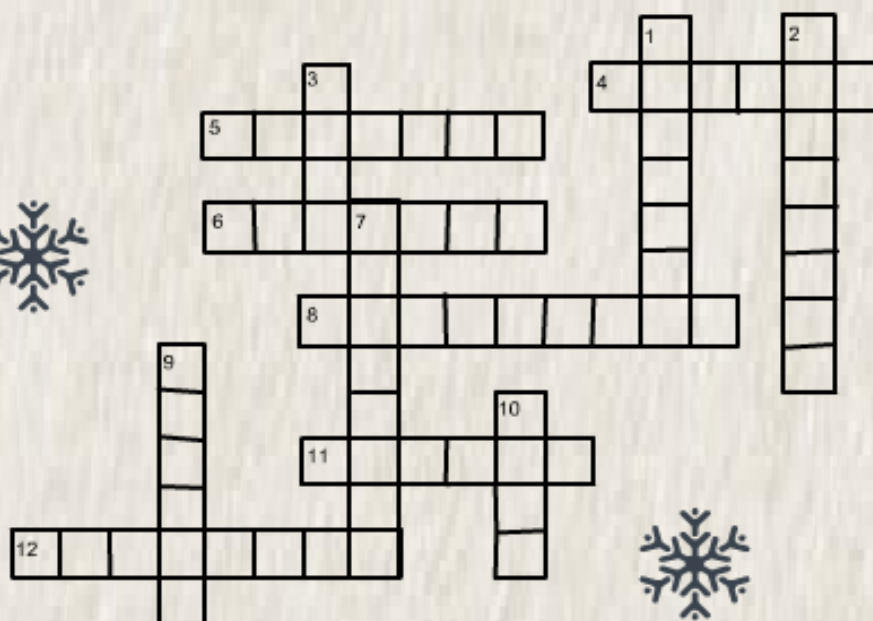
- ready rice pouches
- macaroni and cheese and pasta
- cereal & oatmeal
- pop-top canned foods and Chef Boyardee meals
- single serving lunch items; kid-friendly snacks
- 100% juice boxes
- shelf stable milk
- snacks (granola bars, peanut butter crackers, 6-pack raisins)

Food collection sites have been established at area businesses, including **First National Bank** (Rockland branches), **Allen Insurance & Financial** offices (Rockland and Camden), **The Strand Theatre**, and **AIO Food and Energy Assistance** (Rockland).

(Submitted by Pat Weaver)



Winter Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. A large piece of woolen or similar material used as a covering on a bed or elsewhere for warmth.
2. The twelfth month of the year in the northern hemisphere usually considered the first month of winter.
3. Burning
7. A severe snowstorm with high winds.
9. Shake slightly and uncontrollably as a result of being cold.
10. Make or become liquefied by heat.

Across:

4. A covering for the hand-worn for protection against cold or dirt and typically having separate parts for each finger and the thumb.
5. A vertical channel or pipe which conducts smoke and combustion gases up from a fire or furnace and typically through the roof of a building.
6. A large floating mass of ice detached from a glacier or ice sheet and carried out to sea.
8. (of an animal or plant) spend the winter in a dormant state.
11. An outer garment extending either to the waist or the hips typically having sleeves and a fastening down the front.
12. Wood that is burnt as fuel.



www.MyPartyGames.com



There is a cupboard in the Fellowship room with books to share. This is a separate mission from the library. James still requests if you take books from the library room that you please check them out so he can keep track of them.

Thank you.



The food barrel is in the lobby.
If anyone would like to make a donation,
please feel free to bring in any non-
perishable food item to benefit
Bread for the Journey.



JANUARY bottle redemption to benefit
THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE
Returnable box in Fellowship room



This important ministry helps comfort those in need. We have handed out several in the past few months and with the winter months coming, there may be a need for more shawls. Please contact the office if you have shawls to donate. If you would like to hand one out, there is a record book on the shelf with the shawls. Please fill it out.

Fun Facts to know for National Trivia Day January 4th

Here are some interesting, useless, and obscure facts for you to memorize, so you can impress everyone on National Trivia Day:

- Domesticated Ravens can learn how to talk better than parrots.
- An average cloud weighs around 1.1 million pounds.
- The smell of cut grass is just the chemicals that plants release when they are distressed.
- During World War II, bacon was used to make explosives.
- Play-Doh was not originally a toy, it was advertised and sold as a wallpaper cleaner.
- Baby porcupines are called porcupettes.
- Humans are the only animals that can blush.
- The perfume Obsession for Men by Calvin Klein is used to attract animals to wilderness cameras for research.
- Some cats are allergic to humans.
- A whale's heartbeat can be heard from 2 miles away.

From the office

JANUARY MEETINGS

- **Missions**
Wed. Jan. 4, 12noon
- **Deacon Meeting**
Wed. Jan 4, 6:30pm
- **Ladies Circle**
Mon. Jan. 9, 10am
- **Trustee Meeting**
Thur. Jan. 12, 6:30pm
- **Church Council Meeting**
Thur. Jan. 19, 6:30pm
- **ANNUAL MEETING**
Sun. Jan 22, after Service

- 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 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 please don't hesitate to contact the office.

www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org

We are also on Facebook

ANNUAL MEETING
January 22, 2023

ALL COMMITTEE

REPORTS DUE

ON or BEFORE

January 10, 2023

THE CHILDRENS CLOTHING EXCHANGE
WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF
JANUARY TO RESTOCK AND REORGANIZE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.



Date	Attendance	Offering	Missions
12/04/22	59	\$ 3465.00	\$ 1313.00
12/11/22	62	2349.00	649.00
12/18/22	71	1323.00	360.00
12/24/22	51	n/a	n/a
12/25/22	42	1933.00	354.00

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:am Service HAPPY NEW 2023 EVERYONE CH: Congregation	2 9-11am Coffee Chat	3 9-11am Coffee Chat	4 12n Missions 6:30p Deacon Mtg	5	6	7
8 10:am Service CH: Ladies Circle	9 10:am Ladies Circle	10 9-11am Coffee Chat	11	12 6:30p Trustees	13	14
15 10:am Service CH: Congregation	16	17 9-11am Coffee Chat	18	19 6:30p Church Council Meeting	20	21
22 ANNUAL MEETING	23	24 9-11am Coffee Chat	25	26	27	28
29 10:am Service CH: Caring & Sharing Sisters	30 12:00-1:30pm Woman's Bible Study "Esther"	31 9-11am Coffee Chat				
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS			
01/01 Shiela Barnstein 01/08 Wes Ames 01/15 Gayle White 01/22 Melody Sainio 01/29 Pat Weaver	01/01 Cindy & Debbie (C) 01/08 January & Robin 01/15 Cindy & Karen 01/22 Gayle & David 01/29 Sue & Clint	01/01 Jeff Creighton 01/08 Irene Maxcy 01/15 Sandra Overlock 01/22 Marcia Cifaldo 01/29 Jeff Creighton	01/01 Susan & Steve 01/08 Walter & Linda 01/15 Wes & Tina 01/22 Pat & Sam 01/29 Cindy & Jeremy			

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