

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



JANUARY MEETINGS

Jan. 7 - Wednesday 1:00PM

Mission Meeting

Jan. 8 - Thursday 4:00PM

Trustee Meeting

Jan. 11 - Sunday 11:30AM

Deacon Meeting

Jan. 18 - Sunday

Annual Church Meeting
& Luncheon

Jan. 31 - Saturday 9:00AM

Men's Group Meeting

*Meetings are where
decisions are made.
If you are on a board or
committee it's your
responsibility
to attend meetings.*



PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

As the new year dawns, January invites us into a season of fresh starts, renewed hope, and intentional reflection. The quiet stillness of winter reminds us that even in times of rest and waiting, God is at work—preparing, shaping, and guiding us into what lies ahead.

In Isaiah 43:18-19, God declares, "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?" This powerful promise encourages us to release the burdens and regrets of yesterday and to embrace the new opportunities and blessings God is unfolding before us.

January is a perfect time to renew our commitment to spiritual growth. As the psalmist writes in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Let us ask God to refresh our hearts and minds, filling us with His strength and wisdom for the journey ahead.

This month, as we set goals and resolutions, may we remember that our greatest transformation comes not from our own efforts but from surrendering to God's grace and guidance. Philippians 3:13-14 reminds us, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

In the midst of new beginnings, let us also be mindful of those around us who may be facing uncertainty or struggle. Galatians 6:2 calls us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." May we be sources of encouragement, support, and love within our church family and community.

As we step into 2026 together, may the light of Christ guide every step, and may hope and peace fill your hearts throughout this new year.

With prayers for a blessed and joyful year,

Rev. January

Rev. January's email: 1shepherd4god@gmail.com Telephone: 207-409-4409

WWW.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.ORG

PRAYER REQUESTS



This Prayer List aims to encourage you to hold these beloved individuals in your thoughts and prayers during the week. If you wish to add someone to this list, please consult with them first to obtain their consent before moving forward. (We acknowledge that this may not always be possible.) If your loved one has received the healing grace of God, please let us know so we can take them off the prayer list.

Heavenly Father, in Your boundless compassion, we ask that You bring healing and recovery to those mentioned. Please touch them with Your healing hand and restore their strength. Alleviate their pain and mend what is broken. Surround them with Your peace and comfort. In Jesus' Name, we pray for...

Karen Carpenter Family
Connie Heath
Lee Houghton
Muriel Knutson
Peggy Libby
Stuart Mank
Nola Studley
Walter Pendleton
George Creighton
Eric Overlock
Cindy Gammon

Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Brent Lawson by Melody S.
Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.
Lorraine Strout by Linda K.
Becky Tipp by Carole S.
Dick Hooey by Brenda K
Ether Baldwin
Fanny Faye Davis
Ava Lash (12)
Linda Winstead by Pat W.
Hannah Waters

January Birthdays

4 Tina Bryant
5 Mark Waltz
12 John Black
12 Muriel Knutson
19 Stephen Lombardo
11 Jonathan Dodge
20 Neil Stetson
24 Jeremy White
30 Niva Poland

January Anniversaries

21 Steve & Betty Davis

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

FILL THE BARREL



Suggested Donations:

Canned Veggies
Apple Sauce
Pancake Syrup
Pancake Mix

Please check expiration dates.

**BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY FOOD PANTRY
ALSO ACCEPTS MONETARY DONATIONS.**

IN LOVING Memory



Monica P. Moore peacefully passed away on November 27, 2025, in Edgecomb, Maine, at the age of 96. She was the beloved mother of Michael and Barbara Moore.

A long-time member of SCCW, Monica's family legacy to this church continues through the Michael Moore Fund, which supports children attending Christian summer camp. Those who had the pleasure of knowing Monica remember her for her warmth and kindness. Her gentle spirit brought solace to many, and she was deeply cherished by all who encountered her.

In accordance with her wishes, there will be no services. Monica will be laid to rest in the family plot in Warren.



On December 14, 2025, we lost our beloved friend and Sister in Christ, Evelyn Anderson. After a lengthy illness and with her husband Gerald by her side every minute of the day, she is now at peace with the Lord. Evelyn was a member of this church for over 58 years and for 25 of those years she was the office secretary. Many of the office procedures done to this day were initiated by Evelyn, before the dawn of computers. Evelyn was also very active in the Caring & Sharing Sisters and helped many times with the Ladies Circle Holly Berry fair Grandma's attic. Evelyn also participated with her dear friend and music partner, Neal Stetson, performing together for many years in the Annual Spring Fling. Evelyn was a beautiful lady inside and out and will be missed by all. At Evelyn's request, there will be no service. Rest in peace dearest Evelyn. Until we meet again.

JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THESE DATES....

- January 5, 2026 – Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30 am YOGA / Chair exercise classes resume.
 - January 8, 2026 – Annual reports due in the office.
 - January 10, 2026 – Membership class. If you are interested in becoming an SCCW church member, please see Rev. January.
 - January 18, 2026 – New membership induction during service.
 - January 18, 2026 – Annual Church meeting following service with a beef stew luncheon hosted by the Ladies Circle and Caring and Sharing sisters.
 - January 25, 2026 – Outgoing officer recognition.
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The Christmas and Easter season in 2026 are very close together. We no sooner put the holiday decorations away and it's time to think about Lent and what that means.

The Significance of the Post-Christmas Season

The twelve days after Christmas lead up to Sunday January 4, known as Epiphany. It marks the end of the Christmas season, a time to reflect on God's influence in our lives and the wonder of His creation. Epiphany also celebrates Jesus' baptism and the visit of the three Magi to Mary, Joseph, and their newborn.

Key Dates in the Christian Calendar



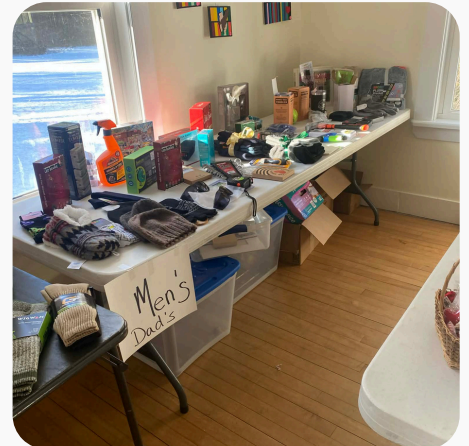
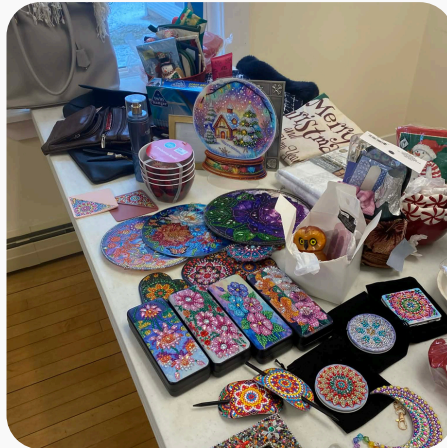
- **February 18: Ash Wednesday**, which begins the 40-day journey leading up to Easter. This season is dedicated to prayer, reflection, and preparation. On this day, Christians traditionally receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their foreheads, symbolizing mortality and repentance, using burned palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday.
- **March 29: Palm Sunday**, a day when we remember Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, welcomed by crowds waving palm branches.
- **April 2: Holy/Maundy Thursday**, when Christians commemorate the Last Supper, the events of the night before Jesus was crucified.
- **April 3: Good Friday**, a day dedicated to remembering the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.
- **April 4: Holy Saturday**, a time when Jesus lay in the tomb, marking the end of the Lenten season and the stripping of the altar.
- **April 5: Easter Sunday**, when we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Christ, symbolizing hope, new life, and the boundless love God has for us all.

Join us this Lenten season as we reflect on and celebrate the rebirth of Jesus. "...on the third day He arose from the dead, sitting at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty".

On December 6th, Becky Ruggieri, with the assistance of the Caring and Sharing Sisters and the generous and numerous donations from the church, hosted the second annual Christmas Kids Shopping Spree.

The weather was not very cooperative for this event, but 20 plus young children were in attendance, and they all went home with wrapped gifts and big smiles.

Kids Christmas SHOPPING SPREE



Thank you
EVERYONE

On Christmas Eve, nearly 60 attendees gathered for our candlelight service to celebrate the night before the birth of Jesus and to enjoy the beautiful performances by three of our beloved vocalists accompanied by Paul Smeltzer. You can listen to these performances on our Facebook page.



Breath of Heaven...Rev. January



No Ordinary Baby...Betsy Vanner



Away in a Manger.. Addy Ruggieri



Musician Paul Smeltzer



"Gesu Bambino" a duet by Beverly and Jim Pacheco



Candlelight's circled the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve to the singing of Silent Night.



A special thank you to those who sang for us and to Paul Smeltzer for his beautiful piano and organ playing.



On Dec. 28th, the first Sunday after Christmas, Annette Gammon-Johnson, the daughter of Mary Gammon, attended service to admire the beautiful nativity set that she and Mary's family had graciously donated to the church. Annette also presented SCCW with a Christmas card along with a donation from Mary's estate that Rev. January read at the beginning of the service.



Mary is deeply missed by many, and although she is no longer with us in life, her spirit continues to radiate generosity and love among her family and the church congregation. We miss you dearly, Mary. We thank you for your love, and for the love of your family.



The last Sunday in December, the Mission's group, Irene, Sharon, Valerie, Gayle, and Marcia posed with a few of the many baskets filled with items donated by the congregation for the Advent mission.

The Mission Board thanks all those who donated items or made a monetary gift to The Landing Place during Advent. We are so grateful for the generosity of our congregation. Our baskets truly runneth over! - Irene



MEN'S GROUP ADVENT PROJECT



The SCCW Men's Group Advent project was a remarkable success. Clint Lanphier distributed several cards to the congregation listing gift needs and requests from the residents of Breakwater Commons.

Thanks to the church's generosity, 50 residents who are alone and without families were able to receive gifts.



Thank you, men! Job well done! The project not only brightened the holiday season for those at Breakwater Commons but also strengthened the bonds within our community. As we look forward to the new year, let's continue to support one another and bring light into the lives of those around us. EVERYONE'S kindness makes a difference in someone's life!

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.

To Volunteer at the
Children's Clothing Exchange, contact
CCE Director - Susan Lombardo
207-701-7622

Don't forget....

To conserve energy, if you turn the
heat UP in any rooms be sure to
turn it back DOWN to 58deg.

Reminder...

For safety reasons, on Sunday morning
all church doors, upstairs and downstairs
are locked at 10:15am. If you arrive after
that time, you will not be able to get in.



Tithe.ly

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.

SCCW CONTACT INFO:

REV. JANUARY EMAIL

1shepherd4god@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMIN: Carolyn Robinson

office.sccw@tds.net

TREASURER: Patricia Weaver

treasurer.sccw@tds.net

TRUSTEE CHAIR: Jeff Creighton

jeffcreighton@gmail.com

DIACONATE CHAIR: Becky Ruggieri

beckyngus@yahoo.com

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.

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.

Sunday Hospitality

First Sunday - Men's Group

Second Sunday - Ladies Circle

*Third Sunday - The Congregation

Fourth Sunday - Caring and Sharing Sisters

Fifth Sunday (if applicable) - The Hospitality Committee

Third Sunday...anyone from the Congregation is
welcome to contribute a snack. If you bring something to
share, please ensure it is plated and ready to be set out.
Remember to take your plates after the coffee hour and
consider helping with the cleanup. This would be very
helpful an insure the same people aren't doing
cleanup each week.



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
12/07/25	50	\$2153.00	360.00
12/14/25	63	1505.00	361.00
12/21/25	54	898.00	N/A
12/28/25	54	N/A	N/A

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ, God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

208.273.2338

2026

Video Gentle Chair Yoga & Exercise
Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-9:00am

MY NOTES AND REMINDERS

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