

THE CORNERSTONE – FEBRUARY 2022

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PASTOR'S PAGE

"The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is not Puritanism but February."

- Joseph Wood Krutch

Can it be February already? Sometimes it seems we just finished up with our Christmas holiday and celebrations with family and church, and now it's February! It's a quick month, but filled with a lot in its four short weeks: Groundhog Day 2/2; Lincoln's birthday 2/12; Valentine's Day 2/14; President's Day (Lincoln and Washington combined) 2/21; Washington's birthday 2/22.

Although the shortest month of the year, it can sometimes be the most brutal month, weather-wise. The *Farmer's Almanac* says for the Northeast: *Winter will be colder than normal, on average, with near- to below-normal snowfall. Precipitation will be above normal in the north and below normal in the south. The coldest periods will be in early December, early to mid- and late January, and mid-February.* We will bundle up!! Because Easter is later this year (April 17th), the usual Ash Wednesday/Lenten season which usually starts in February, does not start until March 1st.

Every season has its beauty. Many "suffer" and "tolerate" the cold winter months, just to get into the warm seasons of spring and summer. Some people embrace each season as it comes, cold or mild, wet or dry, and appreciate the gift of each day. Winter often seems a bleak and dead season. However, underneath the snow and frozen ground, those bulbs are getting ready! The flowers and grass and trees are "biding their time" and resting before bursting forth in the spring thaw. Nothing is dead. It is just sleeping, resting, drawing strength from the earth.

We, too, can do the same. We can practice the Scandinavian art of *Hygge* (hue-gah) which translates "coziness and surrounding yourself with the things that make life good, like friendship, laughter and security, as well as more concrete things like warmth, light, seasonal food and drink." We snuggle in, read more, enjoy hot, comforting drinks and just live in the moment. Soon, the windows will be open, the breeze will be warm, and we will enter the next season. But for now, we are to be grateful for where we are this day, what we have, what God has given us TODAY. The Preacher says:

Everything on earth has its own time and its own season...·God makes everything happen at the right time· Yet none of us can ever fully understand all He has done· Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 11

As the spiritual teacher said: Be. Here. Now.

Pastor Bette



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** (*in some instances we know that this may not be possible*).

GOD'S PRAYERS

Vicki & Bob Barrett's son Heath
 Larry Scott by Melody
 Jane & Mark Waltz
 Beverly's sister Judy
 Brian Hilt by Patty Ott
 Brenda King's sister Barbara
 Robin's daughter Melissa
 Bob by Sharon Smalley
 Lorraine Strout by Linda K.
 Bill Cutting
 Susan Flaherty by Gayle
 Russ & Sandy Lufkin
 Sherry Ladd
 Bill Meservey by Heather M.
 Marty & Jane Parks (Linda's Cousin)

Nola Metcalf
 David Chase
 Lois Engelking
 Jackie Gushee by Tina
 Connie Heath
 Carol Verdini by Margaret
 David Bartlett per Sue Burnell
 Bradley Miller
 Debbie Collemer's dad Colby
 Wayne Quinn by Robin
 Conner Greeman by Patty Ott
 Pat's nephew Merrill Grondin
 Diana's aunt Jackie
 The Lanphier's son Nathan
 Vella Smith



- Feb. 01 Carole Starr
- Feb. 02 Emily Beattie
- Feb. 10 Rev. Bette Bond
- Feb. 16 Patricia Weaver
- Feb. 22 Cynthia Field



None



LETTERS OF THANKS



HOW CAN I THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH?

Your generosity of spirit and gifts and love have been so helpful and amazing to me since my husband Jim died. I have been **SHOWERED** with cards, emails, calls, food, money, gifts, and such **LOVE!** I cried when I received the **LOVE OFFERING** from you all.

More than once I have reflected over the past several weeks how *God sees* all things because *God lives* outside of time. What we call "the future" is where *God already is* and abides. My call to this church was not random. *God knew I'd need* a lot of love and support for this life challenge, and *God prepared the way*. Thanks be to *God!* And thanks be to all of *YOU* for helping me through. We are blessed! PB



I would like to express my enormous gratitude for and appreciation to the liturgists who have served so faithfully during my years with the church. Every one of you has consistently shown a sincere willingness to serve our church; every one of you has been a pleasure to work with. I count this loyal, committed group among the many people who have blessed my life. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you.

Love, Vella



We want to thank all of you for the cards with your thoughts and prayers, love and support in the loss of our beloved husband, father and Grampy. God Bless You All

--The Starr Family

TRANSFIGURATION HERMITAGE

Mission Board
2nd Cong Church Warren
PO Box 206
Warren, ME 04864

January 24, 2022

Dear Friends:

On this bitter cold morning in late January, we are so thankful for you and many others, whose generosity enables us to continue our ministry of prayer and retreats. Your incredibly generous gifts of \$500 from your mission collection, and another \$500 in memory of James Bond, Rev. Bette's husband, is a great help to us as it helps us to pay for a new furnace, a new (to us) car, as well as repairs to our standby generator, without the ability during this pandemic to hold bake sales, which we would normally be doing.

Thank you again for your generous support: know that we hold you and all your intentions in our prayers many times each day in our chapel where we celebrate the Lord's presence in our hearts and in our world on this January day. We are praying very specially for the victims of Covid-19, and for those who care for them, also for all the victims of racial violence and injustice, for the victims of natural disasters, and for peace and an end to divisiveness in our country. What a hard time our world is in! Though there is always hope, and God is always with us. But still, we surely need prayers more than ever.

May the Lord bless and reward you abundantly, and may your winter be blessed with the ever present love of the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Elizabeth Wagner



Thank you so much!

Transfiguration Hermitage is a not-for-profit tax exempt organization, as listed in the Official US Catholic Directory. Please accept this letter as acknowledgement of your donation. No goods or services were transferred in connection with this donation.

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AIO's Second Annual FILL THE STRAND Event, Keeping Neighbors Fed and Warm



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated in AIO's Fill the Strand event yesterday— volunteers, sponsors, community partners and all of the individuals and businesses who donated food or

sponsored a seat. It was a wild weather day but we are grateful to everyone who braved the wind and rain to come visit us at the Strand Theatre - Rockland, Maine. The smiles of volunteers and donors alike were infectious!

Together we raised close to \$20,000 in financial support for our programs and more than a 1/2-ton food for our pantry.

For anyone who had hoped to come by yesterday but couldn't, there's still time. Between now and the end of the day Friday you can sponsor a seat at www.aiofoodpantry.org/strand.

On behalf of the entire AIO team, and event sponsors Allen Insurance and Financial, First National Bank, City + Harbor Real Estate Group, and Rockport Steel, thank you.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

A new hospitality committee has formed.

Continuing on is Janice Overlock and joining the group; Carole Starr and Carolyn Robinson.

A tremendous heart-felt thank you goes to our dearest Vella Smith and Evelyn Anderson for their many years of service to this committee. Many of you who have participated in the hospitality duties of the church will surely miss those monthly phone calls from these lovely ladies.

God bless them both.

This committee gathers those who would like to be Sunday greeters, Liturgists and fellowship servers. If anyone would be interested in either of these please contact one of the committee members. Many thanks.

On January 23rd, we held our annual meeting to go over our budget, written reports and elect new officers and boards. Thank you all for your attendance. The new positions that were filled are as follows:

Deacons: David Landry, Clinton Lanphier, Robin Quinn
Assistant Clerk: Kathy Lanphier
Hospitality: Carole Starr and Carolyn Robinson



Welcome aboard and thank you to those staying on and to those whose terms expired. Outgoing persons will be recognized on Sunday February 13th during service.



PASS THE WORD...BRING A CHILD TO CHURCH ON THIS LOVE SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Parents and students are invited on **Sunday, February 13 at 9:50am.**

Students can sit with their parents until after Pastor Bette's Children's message. 🙏

At approximately 10:15 we will be excused to the Fellowship Hall. We will do a Sunday School lesson on Love! ❤️❤️❤️🌞
Followed by a fun craft, Valentine Cookies and Hot Chocolate ❤️❤️❤️ and ice-cream!

SOUPer Bowl Sunday, Feb 13, 2022

Benefits Bread for the Journey food pantry. Our goal is 100 cans. The food pantry will take Progresso, Campbell, and store brand soup. Soup Ideas - Tomato, vegetable, cream of chicken, chicken noodle, cream of mushroom, vegetable beef, or any other flavor. Thank you for your donation!

We will resume our Taizé worship on the last Wednesday of the month, starting **February 23 at 6 pm**. This is a small gathering where we practice a quiet, meditative reflection; prayer and chanting/singing simple songs. We meet in the Pastor's Study. It is a nice mid-week opportunity to "recharge" or just calm and center ourselves. *PB*



This year our church is 194 years old on February 28th



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



On Sunday Feb 27th

We will be having a birthday party to celebrate.

Last year we received enough toilet tissue to last a full year! Thank you all.

If you would like to bring a gift the following is a list of suggested items.

Church Office

Bulletin Paper: beige 8 ½ x 11

Printer paper white 8 ½ x 11

Avery Easy Peel Address Labels #8160

Printer Ink --

EPSON T512 Eco-Tank-Ink (for the office)

CANON # 280 for black and #281 for the colors (Canon TS 9120) (for the music ministry)

Supplies

Toilet Tissues, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, Windex, facial tissues, Swiffer sheets for duster and sweeper, Swifter wet jet fluid and pads (wood & regular), dish soap, SOS pads, Mr. Clean magic eraser, sponges, Renuzit air freshener

Paper Products

Toilet tissues, paper towels, facial tissues, napkins, paper plates

For Fellowship Hour

Coffee (regular and decaf), purple trash bags, tall white kitchen trash bags

Chemicals

Clorox or Lysol bathroom spray with bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, Murphy's oil soap, liquid hand soap

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY

**FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY
SUGGESTED DONATIONS**

- 02/06 Canned Fruit
- 02/13 SOUP-er bowl
- 02/20 Baked Beans (no dry)
- 02/27 Jams & Jellies

BOTTLE DRIVE

Hello and thank you to everyone who brought bottles in for January. For February the money from the bottle box will go towards the clothes closet. If you need to have bottles picked up please call us at 236-4585 and we shall get them. Thanks again to everyone who donated bottles for the month of January. -- Ken and Linda Lent the bottle box committee.

Fun Fact: February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman Februlia, which was a monthlong festival of purification and atonement. *Source: The Old Farmer’s Almanac*

Groundhog Day 2022: Forecast, Facts, And Folklore

Groundhog Day is celebrated every year on February 2, and in 2022, it falls on Wednesday. It’s a day when townsfolk in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, gather in Gobbler’s Knob to watch as an unsuspecting furry marmot is plucked from his burrow to predict the weather for the rest of the winter. But anyone who bought a copy of the *Farmers’ Almanac*, or checked out our extended forecast, has known what’s in store for the rest of the winter since August!

People often get confused about what it means if the groundhog sees his shadow or not. Let’s clear it up. According to folklore:



- If Phil *does* see his shadow (meaning the Sun is shining), winter will not end early, and we’ll have another 6 weeks left of it.
- If Phil *doesn’t* see his shadow (cloudy) we’ll have an early spring.

Source: Farmer’s Almanac

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- **Missions**
February 2, 12:00noon
- **Diaconate**
February 2, 6:30pm
- **Ladies Circle**
February 7, 10:00am
- **Trustees**
February 10, 6:30 pm
- **Council Meeting**
February 17, 6:30 pm

THANK YOU...

to everyone who submitted their annual reports on time. It certainly did help in preparing the reports for the annual meeting.

Very much appreciated.
~ Carolyn

INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSING NOTICES

LOCAL CLOSINGS & DELAYS
Second Cong. Church of Warren
Tomorrow: Closed

In the event of inclement weather and the decision is made to cancel Sunday Services, you will receive a notice in email or a phone call. You can also see these notices on your local TV network stations, Channels 6, 8 and 13.

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 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

Children's Clothing Exchange
Is in need of volunteers to help man this important mission. Please see Debbie Collemer.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
01/02/22	Cancelled Service	
01/09/22	32	\$2933.00
01/16/22	56	1516.00
01/23/22	56	1460.00
01/30/22	Cancelled Service	