

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

THE CORNERSTONE

NOVEMBER 2026



Pastor Heidi Grueser

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Nov. 2 - Monday 10AM
LADIES CIRCLE Meeting
Nov. 4 -Wednesday 1PM
MISSIONS MEETING
Nov. 6 - Friday 10AM
CARING/SHARING MEETING
Nov. 12 - Thursday 6:30PM
TRUSTEE MEETING
Nov. 15 - Sunday 11AM
DEACONS MEETING
Nov. 28 - 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.

❤️ HEIDI'S HEART

From the bottom of my core being, "Thank You", (Todah Raba, in Hebrew) to our Mission Committee, the Ladies Circle and Caring and Sharing and the Trustees for giving me the greatest of all gifts a flight to Israel. A few months ago, I received an email from the CEO of Friendship Tours inviting me and fourteen other Pastors on a VIP trip to Israel. The only catch was the airfare; we had to pay for ourselves. I brought the issue to the Trustees and they graciously said, "We will find a way to help make this happen."

I am eternally grateful. In Hebrew the word for a "Jew" derives from the verb "le-hodot", which means to "thank you," to "acknowledge," or "to admit." Now, go with me a bit further, this word stems from the book of Genesis when Leah (who was Jacob's first wife) names her fourth son, Judah, meaning, "This time I will thank the LORD!" (Genesis 29:35) Being a believer in Jesus Christ defines us as people who recognize and give thanks. Our Messiah is a descendant of Jacob's fourth son, Judah.

The phrase, "Modeh Ani," is the first prayer when a Jewish person wakes up in the morning before even getting out of bed, thanking God for the safe journey through the evening and the gift of a new day. Allow me to encourage you this November, before you even get out of bed to say, "Thank you, LORD!" Then, watch how your day unfolds...

The month of November in the western world when we seasonally take a moment to be thankful for all we have been blessed with from the LORD. This November, I am thankful for you...for your kindness, friendships, laughs, generosity, joy and your LOVE.

I am extremely thankful to Dave, Joe, Jeff & Tom for making our home as comfortable as possible in expectations of the upcoming winter months. Koral, Gracie K. and I are thankful God has expanded our lives and brought us to Maine, the Second Congregational Church of Warren. A year ago, this new life was not a serious contender on our radar, (we had only had 2 interviews via zoom). Yet, God impressed upon me (as He does) and I listened to His voice, I am so thankful (todah) I did.

God bless each of you mightily this November season!
All my Love,
Pastor Heidi

PRAYER REQUESTS



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...

This Prayer List is designed to inspire you to keep these cherished individuals in your thoughts and prayers throughout the week. If you would like to add someone to this list, please seek their permission 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.

Karen Carpenter Family
Connie Heath
Muriel Knutson
Nola Studley
Janette Small
Margaret Damewood
Sandra Gammon
Carole Starr

Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.
Lorraine Strout by Walter K.
Baby Anthony (Field)
Joani Mitchell by Hope C.
Stuart Mank
George Creighton
Derek Soucy

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 - Freda Hill
5 - Robin Quinn
6 - Gregory Cifaldo
8 - Jay Cifaldo
8 - Pastor Heidi
8 - Amanda Field
19 - Kim Cohen
19 - Walter Kaler
23 - Albert Overlock
24 - Kristina Ott
24 - Becky Ruggieri
24 - John Hagin
25 - Clinton Lanphier
30 - Merle Vanner

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

FILL THE BARREL

<u>November Suggested Donations:</u>

Cereal
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Canned/dry pet food



BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY FOOD PANTRY ALSO ACCEPTS MONETARY DONATIONS. OUR BARREL HAS BEEN EMPTY LATELY; PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION.

TWO CHURCHES
one service

WEDNESDAY November 25th 4:00pm

Our annual Thanksgiving Eve service with our sister church will be held at this church with the Baptist church in attendance.

Happy and Blessed and Thankful Thanksgiving everyone!

IMPORTANT DATES AND HAPPENINGS

- **Nov. 3 thru 11 - Pastor Heidi will be away**
- **Nov. 14 - 8:30 - Grandma's House Christmas Fair**
- **Nov. 15 - 9:15-9:45am - Sunday Adult Bible Study resumes**
- **Nov. 15 - 11:30am - Church Membership Class**
- **Nov. 17 - 11:00am - Tuesday Bible Study resumes after Coffee Chat**
- **Nov. 22 - New Members induction during service**
- **Nov. 25 - 4PM - Wednesday Thanksgiving Eve Service here w/Baptists**
- **Nov. 26 - Happy Thanksgiving everyone**
- **Nov. 29 - 2-4PM - Live Nativity Production - Woolen Mill Park**

Reminder: Be thinking about those year-end reports!!!!

GRANDMA'S HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAIR



November 14 th - 8:30 – 1:00.



The traditional Ladies Circle Holly Berry Fair will have a new name and look this year. It will be Grandma's House holiday fair and will be a combined event between the Caring and Sharing Sisters and Ladies Circle.

With membership in both groups dwindling and/or aging we have started supporting each other in our various events: church suppers, Sunday morning brunches and lunches, and now the fair. Possibly the future will be a 'church' fair as many members faithfully contribute to our endeavors. Be thinking of all the possibilities for a church fair in 2027.

This year's event will feature Grandma's Attic in the downstairs fellowship room, Grandma's Cupboard, Grandma's (new) Stuff, upstairs the Caring & Saring Sisters will have Grandma's Crafts and Grandma's Kitchen (baked goods). We will of course have our delicious beef stew luncheon with brownie a la mode dessert for just $10.00 (11:00-1:00). There will be three different raffles: Turkey dinner basket, $65 gift certificate to Grant's Christmas Tree sales, and table top tree covered in gift cards to local vendors. Santa will visit and be ready for holiday pictures 9-12.

Please spread the word and put us on your calendar.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE 2026

Sunday, November 29, 2026 2-4PM

The committee (we and the Baptist Church) have been meeting and plans are moving forward beautifully. The town has put up the Christmas lights for us. We have secured live animals (you will see) and live music featuring James Harriman, the Warren musician who played for us on July 4th. During this spectacular afternoon we will present the birth of Jesus in the town of Warren, celebrate the lighting of the Christmas Tree, sing Carols and put Jesus first in our Christmas Season.

The banner's are out, the posters are hung, now help spread the word to make this our very first Christmas in the Park an event to be talked about until next year when it will be bigger and better.

Pray for good weather and let our light shine bright this Christmas!



Congregational Christian Council of Maine

October 17, 2026 - Spring Meeting - Submitted by Pat Weaver

What a beautiful day as we head to Sebago Center Community Church, the leaves, the conversation, the views all so wonderful.

We arrived at Sebago Church around 8:00 (it was a 2-hour drive), enter the Fellowship room filled with conversations, meeting other church members from so many churches, some new faces and some familiar. There were tables set up with a light breakfast of fruit and muffins, coffee and juice.
The theme for the day was Fellowship with each other and the Congregational Way and it was that in so many ways!

We then headed to the sanctuary for a great gathering, the first thing you noticed was Big Bertha, (actually the organ). It was a sight to see, more on that later. The program was put on by the Executive council. It started with a meditation: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."
1 Corinthians 12:12.



Rev. Fred Fortier (Moderator) welcomed all.
Call to Worship-Rev. Doug Drown (Ambassador)-Jeremiah 31:27-34
Prayer of Invocation was given by Rev. Mark Tanner (Vice Moderator)
Scripture readings on Exodus 24:9-11 and 1 John 1:1-7 were read by Pat Weaver (Treasurer) and Brenda Gammon (Scribe). Cares and Shares and prayer was given by Rev. Irv Gammon in place of Rev. Carl Screiber (Ambassador), Please keep Carl in your prayer.

Message was given by Rev. January Peavey (Ambassador). "Fellowship with God and one another."

Communion/The Lord's Supper was given by Rev. Mike Carter and Rev. Vance Jordan (both Ambassadors) Craig Posey (Ambassador) gave the benediction.

There were many songs throughout the program played by Carolyn Stanhope, organ and Avery Burke, organ and piano. (By the way Avery is only 13 and she was wonderful).

The CCCME Covenant was recited: Affirming God's Love. Sustained by God's Power. Guided by God's Word. We covenant to be a fellowship of Christ's people in the world—healers, reconcilers, agents of peace—the Lord's free people, gathered in the Lord's name, bound in love, one to another.



January's message was inspiring, she talked about fellowship with God and one another, Spiritual Communion—shared life with God and one another—made possible because the Word came from Jesus Christ. This is message was from 1John. One of the take aways from her message. "Fellowship with God is not an accessory to church life—it is the foundation of church life".

Our relationships in the church matters because they reveal whether our fellowship with God is real. That means we cannot maintain a claim of spiritual intimacy with God while refusing the responsibilities of belonging to God's people. We can't say, "We're close to God," while living in denial—about ourselves, our sin, and our relationships. Jesus taught reconciliation is a spiritual priority: when someone has something against you, don't hide behind excuses—pursue restoration: "First be reconciled." And when sin and conflict remain unaddressed, it harms the body. That's why he gives steps toward telling, hearing, and seeking repentance.

In a congregational context, this is not only theology; it is how we are built. Congregational churches emphasize covenant life: the gathered people of God are responsible for one another. We don't treat fellowship as a spectator sport. John's point: fellowship is not only "we sit together," but "we are being formed together into the light."

Fellowship begins with Christ revealed—the Word made manifest. It continues with fellowship with the Father and the Son. And it shows itself in our fellowship with one another through walking in the light, confessing sin, receiving forgiveness, and living as a covenant community cleansed by Christ's blood.

For the Congregational Way, this is not optional. Congregational fellowship is a visible gospel reality. It requires courage to tell the truth, humility to confess, and faith to trust that forgiveness restores relationship."

This is only a snippet of what the message was about, wish I could put all of it in here.



After a break we met in the Sanctuary again to listen to Julie Robie, Mission Coordinator of the NACCC. She was hired in 2019 to do everything related to global mission and outreach, (her words) 'I always remind myself that in this relationship based association, 'people come first, but paperwork needs to get done'.

In February 2019-One of the first calls she answered was from a woman whose voice told her that she was long in her life journey. She wanted to make sure her donations were going to her intended missions.

That reminded me at that moment that donations to the NACCC for Missions work come from His Heart through donors' hands. She assured her they would. In 2025 $150,000 was received from the One Great Hour of Sharing General and Disaster Relief. By the way 100% of donations to NACCC Missions goes to the Missions, not administration.

She talked about many Missions that the NACCC support but there was a couple that I reflected on. One has been a Mission since 1994 (I hadn't heard of this). The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation. It started with the Rwanda Genocide, after 100 days one million members of the Tutsi and Hutus tribes. The Center helped participants experience the love of Christ and brought reconciliation between member of various tribes. They also work with Church and groups here in the U.S to help to reconcile many differences.

The other is brand new called Child Voice. The main office is in N.H. Their mission is to restore the voice of children silenced by war and conflict. There was also a powerful video shown, it hit my heart. Please go to the NACCC website to read more about these Missions and many more.

We then broke for Lunch of many soups and cobblers for dessert, a hearty thank you for the Sebago cooks.

We met again upstairs and listen to Mark Tanner about the Vitality program sponsored by the NACCC. This program will give monetary (I think it was $2500) help with improving and helping churches. There is a link on the cccouncil.me website.

Rev. Irv Gammon spoke on the Spring meeting which will be held in Rockland. This is going to be huge. The program will be on the Councils website, please take a look and I hope many from this church will attend.



Our own Second Congregational Church was again held the award for most attending from one church, besides the host church, there were 7 members in attendance.

The last speaker was Donald Kent who gave a history of Big Bertha the organ in her words (the organ speaking), it was interesting and sometimes funny. The organ was built in 1871 and first played on July 6, 1876. It has the original hand stencil still on it, hand carved, it still can be a pump organ, but has been converted. There was a small concert from Peter Stickley and Doug Drown along with Carolyn Stanhope and especially the 13-year-old Avery.

There was no business meeting, just a meeting of fellowship, smiles, laughter and love. I think we all hated to say goodbye, the ride home though was quite colorful. It was a wonderful God's Day all around. ~Pat Weaver



WE FILLED THE MANGER!!

Thank you to all who helped fill the manger with baby clothes for Pastor Heidi to take on her Israel trip, to be delivered to the Bethlehem orphanage. Heidi blessed the clothing and the children prayed with her. What a warm feeling to know we have helped so many small children.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE for 2027 :

If you are interested in being on this very important committee, please contact Clint Lanphier. We are in need of three team players. Several committee seats are available, including Deacon, Bowes Fund Board and more. Be considering a seat....we need you!!!

I S R A E L T R I P - M A Y 3 - 1 2 , 2 0 2 7

We are still meeting for those interested in learning about the Israel trip, when Heidi returns from her Nov. 3 thr 11 trip she will have more information to share at the next meeting Nov. 29th

Trip informational meetings will be on Sundays @ 11:30am on the dates listed to the right.

Reminders and announcements will be sent out. All are welcome.



- November 29, 2026
- December 20, 2026
- January 24, 2027
- February 28, 2027
- March 28, 2027
- April 4, 2027
- April 25, 2027

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

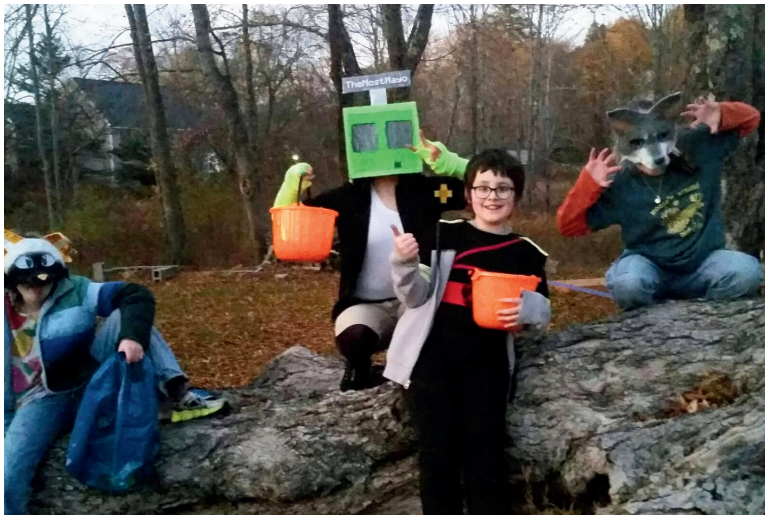


Sunday November 15th at 11:30am Pastor Heidi will be conducting a **new membership class**. New members will be officially inducted on November 22nd during Sunday service. If you are new here or would like to renew your membership, please reach out to the office anytime for a membership application.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

The kids had a great time on Hallloween, thanks to Monique and Kathy and a special thanks to the congregation for their full size candy bar donations.







A special thank you to our congregation for welcoming Ed and Arthur from Boothbay VETS (Veterans Emergency Temporary Shelter) on Sunday, November 1st. Missions presented them with a check for $1000 and you all contributed to the Love Offering. If anyone wishes to support this worthwhile mission their address is Boothbay VETS, PO Box 260, Boothbay, ME 04537.

Ed certainly presented us with quite a heartfelt Mission Moment! And ended it by saying, "Do something good for someone every day". These are words to live by. ~Irene

All Soul's Day

On November 1st, All Saints/Souls day we honored those family and friends who have gone home before us. A candle was lit and a bell rung for each of the 36 names that were called.

Revelation 21:4: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."

We welcomed Pastor Heidi's long time friend, Theresa Cox. TT (as the girls call her) will be staying with Koral and Gracie K while Heidi travels to Israel. May God's traveling mercies be with her.



Jack Hobden was officially and unanamously voted on the Diaconate board on Nov. 1st as Junior Deacon. Jack is taking his new role very seriously and has been a tremendous help to the Deacons. We are so proud of him.



Sunday Brunch

Sunday Brunch was fabulous. Hosted by the Caring and Sharing Sisters with the help of the Ladies Circle and Men's Group. There were many breakfast casseroles, biscuits and gravy and yes! Bacon! but unfortunately we ran out of bacon. We promise to cook more in the future. Special thanks to all cooks and fruit cutters and a bigger thanks to those who helped with clean up. A chore that is just as important as making the food. To all of you....your time and talents do not go unnoticed.

Let's have some Fall fun and....

Seek Ye Members

Last month I was told I missed a few names..... so here ya go.....Thank you Walter!

B S R X T K G D G X X M B D R Y S Q D N H
O F L U Q W O L Z G X I S W D S H I V M T
G T H P M R L J J I C U D D Z U U E A E I
P E K I E C P W C R F O A A N T E R K N O
P A D P L F P F N A F R R V O O T V K M N
T N T Z O O S O X K Y D M I D I I I Y J P
A N S T D D U C L I N T Y D N A I N G L B
D O M Z Y N E I C A R G I H X N R E W P R
H D F L I A M E S T Q B M U Q O E E A J V
A S L E X A N I N E J E B F B S B L L E P
V A C A B G B B P L C F I H P I N H T L R
Z F K V D B M B N A J S K M T R C T E R Y
T K Y C U J A E J T Y H Q M A R G A R E T
C Z Y K J U R D P L I N D A A A Y K C M H
F E L O R A C O V L O U Y Q U H F D G R E
G U T B K K I I B Q H D E G D Y A A E L V
A Q T K E K A L B E R T U H U A G Y J R T
N T I C C T U E Z X R S U M E V L A E U I
Q J T I F D T G Z E T T E N A J S Y D U B
T S V Y U S C Y D U C N M M K K E A R P R
B E Q X Y S N C S H U W W W Z D W G T N L

NAMES TO FIND

Addy
Albert
Aleta
Ann
Augustus
Axel
Betsy
Betty
Carole
Clint
Corinne
David
Debbie
Donna
Gracie
Harrison
Hutch
Janette
Jenina
Karen
Kathleen
Linda
Louise
Marcia
Margaret
Martin
Melody
Merle
Patty
Robert
Ryder
Sandra
Sue
Sylvia
Vicki
Walter

For entertainment purposes only.



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:

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treasurer.sccw1@gmail.com
TRUSTEE CHAIR: Jeff Creighton
jeffcreighton@gmail.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 or committee, 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 Congregation



ALL SEATED YOGA and EXERCISE
Monday - Wednesday - Friday - 8:30 to 9:00-am
Stretch, strength and flexibility. All welcome!
Free Video Class



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
10/04/26	50	$2858.00	$ 182.00
10/11/26	55	908.00	990.00
10/18/26	49	708.00	37.00
10/25/26	48	1060.00	50.00

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Service Music: Barbara Bibro ALL SOULS CELEBRATION BRUNCH	2 10:am Ladies Circle Mtg	3 9-11am Table Talk Heidi Away>>>>>	4 1:00pm Missions	5 9-11am CCE	6 10am Caring Sharing Mtg	7 AA Room Rent 9-2PM
8 10am service/ Communion Guest Minister: Rev. Neil Gastonguay Music: Lizzie Danchi	9	10 9-11am Table Talk	11 <<<Heidi Return	12 9-11am CCE 4:00pm Trustee Mtg	13	14 8:30am Grandma's House Fair
15 Adult SS 9:15-9:45 10am Service Deacon Mtg 11:30am Music: TBA Mission Moment: Gayle	16	17 9-11am Table Talk >11am Bible Study	18	19 9-11am CCE	20	21
22 Adult SS 9:15-9:45 10am Service Music: Barbara Bibro	23	24 9-11am Table Talk >11am Bible Study	25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 4pm Here with Baptist church	26 9-11am CCE Lent Room Rent Happy and Blessed Thanks Giving to all	27	28 Men's Group Mtg
29 Adult SS 9:15-9:45 10am Service Israel info mtg 11:30am 2pm Live Nativity in the Park Music: TBA	30	1 DECEMBER 9-11am Table Talk >11am Bible Study	2 1pm Missions	3 9-11am CCE	4 10am Caring Sharing Mtg	5

LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY
11/01 Cindy Bland	11/01 Ann / Karen	11/01 Jeff Creighton	11/01 Kids	11/01 Men's Group
11/08 Pat Weaver	11/08 Paul / Zach	11/08 Irene Maxcy	11/08 Sterling & Carolyn	11/08 Ladies Circle
11/15 Melody Sainio	11/15 Ann / Susan	11/15 Sandra Overlock	11/15 TBA	11/15 Congregation
11/22 Aleta Mank	11/22 Carolyn / Karen	11/22 Marcia Cifaldo	11/22 TBA	11/22 Caring/Sharing
11/29	11/29 Paul / Susan	11/29 Sterling Robinson	11/29 TBA	11/29 Congregation

NOTE: Above duties subject to change. Church Office hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8-1p
TUES. EVE. AA Group Meet
FRIDAY EVE. Scouts Meet

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