

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026



Rev. January Peavey

MARCH MEETINGS

Mar 2 - Monday 10:00AM

LADIES CIRCLE MEETING

Mar 4 - Wednesday 1:00PM

MISSIONS MEETING

Mar 6 - Friday 10:00AM

CARING & SHARING MEETING

Mar 8 - Sunday 11:30AM

DEACON MEETING

MAR 12 - THURSDAY 4:00PM

TRUSTEE MEETING

MAR 28 - SATURDAY 9:00AM

MENS 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

March 2026: A Season of Renewal and Reflection

As we enter March, we find ourselves in a season of renewal and reflection. The early signs of spring remind us of God's faithfulness in bringing new life out of the quiet and stillness of winter. Just as the earth awakens, so too are we invited to awaken our hearts to God's transforming work.

In Lamentations 3:22-23, we are reminded, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." This truth encourages us to embrace each day as a fresh opportunity to experience God's mercy and grace.

March also invites us into deeper reflection as we journey through the season of Lent and Easter—a time to consider Christ's sacrifice and the hope of resurrection. Psalm 46:10 calls us to "Be still, and know that I am God." In the stillness, we find strength, peace, and clarity to follow Jesus more closely.

As we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter, may we also be mindful of how we can share God's love with those around us. Galatians 6:9 encourages us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Let us persevere in kindness, service, and faith.

This March, may the renewal of nature inspire the renewal of our spirits, and may the hope of resurrection fill us with joy and purpose. With prayers for a blessed and reflective season.

Grace and Blessings...

Rev. January

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

PRAYER REQUESTS



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.

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	Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Connie Heath	Brent Lawson by Melody S.
Muriel Knutson	Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.
Peggy Libby	Lorraine Strout by Walter K.
Stuart Mank	Becky Tipp by Carole S.
Nola Studley	Dick Hooey by Brenda K.
Walter Pendleton	Esther Baldwin
George Creighton	Fanny Faye Davis
Eric Overlock	Ava Lash (12)
Cindy Gammon	Linda Winstead by Pat W.
Jason Heath	Hannah Waters
Walter Kaler	Deborah Smith
Janette Small	Koral (age 10)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS --- ANNIVERSARIES

6 Patty Ames	1 Joe & Marcia Cifaldo
10 Betty Baker	
15 Sterling Robinson	
21 Zoe Hobden	If your special day
29 Amber Hagin	is not listed please
29 Jim Pacheco	contact the office.
31 Bob Jordan	

FILL THE BARREL



Suggested Donations:

- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit
- Pasta & Sauce
- Can/Dry pet food

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY FOOD PANTRY ALSO ACCEPTS MONETARY DONATIONS.

"Bread for the Journey" - Warren Food Pantry is open every Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
 Located in the Old Brick School Community Center - 44 School Street - Behind the Warren Baptist Church
 Offering food assistance to those in need - for more information please call
 Delia Lufkin, Steering Committee Chair - Ph: 273-2285 or leave a message at the church office - Ph: 273-4400

IMPORTANT DATES AND HAPPENINGS

- March 1 - Sunday - after service there will be a re-vote for pastoral candidate Rev. Heidi Grueser
- March 2 - Monday - 10:00am Ladies Circle meeting
- March 6 - Friday - 10:00am Caring and Sharing Sisters meeting
- March 8 - Sunday - Spring forward
- March 8 - Sunday - 11:30 am Deacon meeting
- March 12 - Thursday 6:30pm Trustees Meeting
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 29 - Palm Sunday
- April 2 - 6:30pm Maundy Thursday service
- April 4 - 9:30am to 11:00am - Kids Egg painting with the Easter Bunny
- April 5 - 6:30am Sunrise service on the lawn
- April 5 - 7:00am Men's Easter Breakfast
- April 5 - Happy Easter everyone!

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 8:30 am Gentle Chair Yoga and Exercise



LENTEN offering



The Mission Board has selected Seafarer's Friend to receive our Lenten offering. Seafarer's Friend is a ministry committed to meeting the spiritual, social, practical and emotional needs of the New England Maritime Community, serving the ports of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.

In addition to a monetary donation, hats, scarves and ditty bags are being made to take to the NACCC National meeting being held in Springfield, MA. (See Sharon for patterns)

We will be collecting the following items to fill the ditty bags:

- travel-size toiletries
- pens and pencils
- small packs of Kleenex
- small pads of paper
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- playing cards
- dental floss
- crossword puzzle or word search books
- nail emery boards
- and pocket-sized Bibles

Please consider donating to those who are working out to sea with little means to acquire these physical items, as well as, a means to receive spiritual and emotional needs.

Thank you for your generous support. ~ Missions Board



MARCH 8

Spring ahead on **March 8th**. We will lose an hour of sleep that night, but then sunrises and sunsets will happen later. Longer and warmer days ahead.



Easter Memorial flower orders are out. If you did not get an order form on Sunday in your bulletin, contact the office or see Kathy Lanphier. **Order deadline is March 22nd.**



Never too early to plan! - June 27-30, 2026

This year the NACCC meeting and conference is not far away, giving all of us an opportunity to experience this annual event. Carpool, room share, get there any way you can. You won't be disappointed.

Registration will open on April 1st so be thinking about it.

This year they gather in Springfield, Massachusetts, under the theme "Hope and a Future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

In addition to crucial discussions and decision-making sessions, there will be workshops, learning opportunities, and ample time for fellowship. Whether you're attending as a delegate or just to enjoy the experience, there will be something valuable for everyone. Stay tuned for more information!

Maine trivia:

There are 23 million acres of land in Maine. 17.6 million of those acres are forested.



SCCW HISTORY



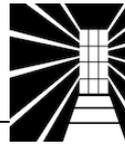
With our 200th year anniversary quickly approaching, I thought it was time to start posting a little of what we are all about here at SCCW and the events that lead to where we are today. This is a reprint from a 2021 newsletter. I am sure there will be more forthcoming information about our 200th anniversary celebration from the planning committee.

The following is a timeline of our church building, not our birth date of February 27, 1828, when 13 men and 10 women came together to organize the Second Congregational Society.

- June of 1831, the Second Congregational Society purchased a half-acre of land from William Hovey for \$200. The cost of the original building was about \$400; it was plain and without a spire.
- January 16, 1833, the dedication of the new church building was held.
- 1855 - the spire was added at an expense of \$225 but was destroyed in the Gale of 1869 and replaced the following year.
- 1870 - the church walls were lathed and plastered. The new steeple was built along with the vestibule with a rounded corner and stained-glass windows.
- January 1878, the chapel was built but the present dining room was added later. However, the church and chapel were connected.
- 1886 - a major remodeling of the edifice, including the stained-glass windows, was completed at a cost of \$4,100. The chapel was rededicated on September 18, 1887.
- 1914 - the church was repaired and redecorated for \$1,600. As part of the 120th anniversary (1948) the chapel was remodeled by Stuart Burgess in memory of his mother, Martha Burgess.
- Between 1955-1961 a basement was added below the sanctuary. When this project was complete there was a kitchenette, a room for the Sunday School, a furnace room and restroom. The cost was \$7,550.
- 1982 - a two-story addition was built on the west side of the church. Today it is the church office below, and choir room above.
- 1996 - extensive reinforcement of the sanctuary trusses and a new asphalt shingle roof on the sanctuary was completed at a cost of \$54,125. A new church ceiling was installed that same year.
- 2001 - a new foundation was dug under the chapel (the "Big Dig") with new SS rooms, a library and a boiler room. In addition, a hallway and handicap restroom were added to the steeple base. At a total cost of \$67,500.
- August 22, 2016 - Jim Derby started the restoration of our steeple.
- September 3, 2017 - the dedication of our steeple was held outside on the front lawn. The total cost was \$95,174, half of which was paid by the Maine Steeples Fund grant.

These highlights represent just a portion of our journey; many more projects have been completed since 2017, which I will share in our next newsletter. Countless individuals have dedicated their time and talents to our church, and their efforts continue to shape our community. Reflecting on our past allows us to appreciate our accomplishments and understand the enduring importance of faith, freedom, and fellowship today.

Informative read...Pat Weaver submitted this letter from the Boston Congregational Library and Archives and wanted to share it with the congregation.



**Congregational
Library & Archives**

Dear Friend of the Congregational Library & Archives,

I am pleased to share with you a link to the recording of Newport Gardner's Anthem: A Story of Slavery, Struggle, and Survival in Early America, which was presented by the Congregational Library & Archives on Wednesday, December 3rd, from 1:00-2:00 pm.

This virtual talk with Dr. Edward E. Andrews focused on his new book that explores the remarkable life of Occramer Marycoo, an enslaved African who went on to become one of early America's most important Black leaders. In the mid-eighteenth century, Marycoo was taken from West Africa to Newport, Rhode Island, where he was forced into racial bondage and given a name that symbolized the power that his new city and new enslaver held over him: Newport Gardner. In this powerful book, Edward E. Andrews pieces together newspaper articles, church records, letters, and Gardner's own writings to tell the story of his life.

After acquiring his freedom via a winning lottery ticket in 1791, Gardner became a kind of Founding Father for Newport's free Black community. He established and led several Black benevolent organizations that helped the community navigate the complicated waters of freedom as Rhode Island slowly began the process of emancipation. He became a popular educator to young Black Newporters, and also emerged as a key religious figure, serving as a long-standing pillar of Newport's First Congregational Church and later founding an independent Black church in the 1820s. His final act was leading a group of about three dozen Black New Englanders to Liberia, in hopes that a new start in Africa would be better than the discrimination they faced in America.

A richly textured account, Newport Gardner's Anthem tells the story of a forgotten Black leader while exploring the new, but tragically limited, opportunities for formerly enslaved people in the post-Revolutionary world.

The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/snp-ZwJgZ2c>

As you will see, we are striving to make these recordings as useful as possible through closed captioning, a helpful guide to the topics covered in the videos (see "chapters" in the full description), and links to find more information. In recognition of the recent generous financial support of the Congregational Library & Archives by individuals like yourself, we are making recordings of recent virtual programs available to you before they are shared with the general public. This is one way we can thank you for your ongoing support, which makes our work possible.

Best wishes, Heather



St. Patrick's Day, March 17, feast day of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432CE to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts. ~Google

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.



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

Ishepherd4god@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 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 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
02/01/26	40	\$ 2510.00	\$ 380.00
02/08/26	60	1322.00	131.00
02/15/26	57	855.00	56.00
02/22/26	57	1055.00	70.00

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206

WARREN, MAINE 04864

208.273.2338

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Service 2pm Scouts Court of Honor	2 10am Ladies Circle Mtg	3	4 1:00pm Missions	5 9-11am CCE	6 10am Caring Sharing Mtg	7
8 10am Service Time Spring Forward Deacon Mtg 11:30	9 9-11am Table Talk	10 9-11am Table Talk	11	12 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Mtg	13	14
15 10am Service	16 St. Pat's Day 9-11am Table Talk	17	18	19 9-11am CCE	20	21
22 10am Service	23 9-11am Table Talk	24 9-11am Table Talk	25	26 9-11am CCE	27	28 Men's Group Meeting
29 10am Service Palm Sunday	30 9-11am Table Talk	31 9-11am Table Talk	1 APRIL 1:00pm Missions	2 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Maundy Thursday	3 10am Caring Sharing Mtg Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
03/01 Merle Vanner 03/08 Aleta Mank 03/15 Melody Sainio 03/22 Donna Lewis 03/29	03/01 Michelle & Becky 03/08 Steve & Betty 03/15 Michelle & Carol 03/22 Becky & Kathleen 03/29 Susan & Kathleen	03/01 Sterling Robinson 03/08 Jeff Creighton 03/15 Irene Maxcy 03/22 Sandra Overlock 03/29 Marcia Cifaldo	03/01 Susie & Janice O. 03/08 Margaret & Jenina 03/15 Carole & Freda 03/22 Zach & Monique 03/29 Sterling & Carolyn	03/01 Men's Group 03/08 Ladies Circle 03/15 Congregation 03/22 Caring & Sharing 03/29 Hospitality Cmt		

NOTE: Above duties subject to change. Church Office hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8-12
TUES. EVE. AA Group Meet Minister Office hours: Wed. 8am-6pm
THUR. EVE. Scouts Meet Thurs. 12:30-6pm

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