

# SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

## CORNERSTONE NEWSLETTER

# FEBRUARY 2026



Rev. January Peavey

### JANUARY MEETINGS

**Feb. 4 - Wednesday 1:00PM**

MISSION MEETING

**Feb. 8 - Sunday 11:30AM**

DEACON MEETING

**Feb. 12 - Thursday 4:00PM**

TRUSTEE MEETING

**Feb. 19 - Thursday 6:30PM**

COUNCIL MEETING

**Feb. 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.*



### PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

#### February 2026: A Month of Love, Compassion, and Faithfulness

As February unfolds, we find ourselves in a season often associated with love—reminding us not only of romantic love but, more importantly, of God's boundless love for each of us. In this month, our hearts are invited to grow deeper in compassion, kindness, and faithful service to one another.

The Apostle John beautifully reminds us in 1 John 4:7-8, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." This February, may our lives reflect this divine love in all that we say and do.

Love is not always easy, especially when it calls us to forgive, to serve, or to reach out beyond our comfort zones. Yet, as Jesus teaches in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Our calling is to embody Christ's love—selfless, enduring, and transformative.

This month, let us also be mindful of the ways we can demonstrate love within our church family and community. Hebrews 10:24 encourages us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Small acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and faithful prayers can make a profound difference.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day and the season of love, may we remember the greatest love of all—the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ that draws us into eternal relationship with God. Let that love be our foundation and our motivation every day.

May February be a month where love grows, faith deepens, and hope shines brightly in our hearts.

With love and blessings,

*Rev. January.*

## 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  
Connie Heath  
Muriel Knutson  
Peggy Libby  
Stuart Mank  
Nola Studley  
Walter Pendleton  
George Creighton  
Eric Overlock  
Cindy Gammon  
Jason Heath  
Walter Kaler

Romeo Jackson by Melody S.  
Brent Lawson by Melody S.  
Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.  
Lorraine Strout by Walter 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

## February Birthdays

1 Carole Starr  
2 Emily Beattie  
10 Rev. Bette Bond  
16 Patricia Weaver  
24 Sue Chipman

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

## FILL THE BARREL

Suggested Donations:



Canned Veggies  
Dry Cereal  
Noodles - Rice  
Can/Dry pet food

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



Leland Houghton -



On January 17, 2026, the world said goodbye to a truly kind soul, Leland Houghton. Over the past year, Lee faced a tough battle with cancer that he fought with incredible determination, even though it proved impossible to overcome. His time with SCCW may have been short, but he left a meaningful mark on everyone he met. His warm smile could light up any room. For a while, he was part of the Bell Ringers and loved every moment, ringing the biggest bell—not just in the choir, but in life. Oh, Mr. Lee, you will be deeply missed by all. May you rest pain-free in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

## February Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!

- February 8, 2026 - **Scout Sunday**: Scouts will be participating in the service.
- February 8, 2026 - **SOUP-er Bowl Sunday**. Bring your soup cans and Ramen noodles.
- February 14, 2026 - Happy Valentine's Day!
- February 15, 2026 - Pastoral Candidate Rev. Heidi Grueser will be in the pulpit for our consideration of a new Minister. Please plan to attend.
- February 18, 2026 - **Ash Wednesday**. Rev. January will be in the office if anyone would like to receive ashes.
- February 19, 2026 - 6:30pm **Church Council** - Council chair election & meeting - consider attending. Newly elected officers should also attend.
- February 28, 2026 - Church's 198th Birthday.
- March 1, 2026 - **Church Birthday Celebration**: A suggested gift list is provided below. Please sign your name on the bulletin board next to the item you choose to donate. Thank you for your generous and continued support!



ON FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> OUR BELOVED CHURCH WILL BE  
198 YEARS OLD. PRAISE GOD!

**WE WILL BE CELEBRATING ON SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2026**

**FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED WISH LIST FOR THE CHURCH**

Check below what you are able to donate

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- 7-ounce HOT cups
- 7-ounce COLD cups
- Paper Plates small
- Paper Plates large heavy duty
- White tall kitchen trash bags
- Black 33-gallon trash bags
- Purple transfer trash bags large
- Pump disinfectant hand soap
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Swiffer wet-jet refill pads
- Domino sugar packets
- Coffee creamer cups
- Ground coffee decaf
- Ground coffee regular
- Office Copy paper white #28
- White correction tape
- Postage Stamps
- Batteries AA & AAA
- Other
- Other
- Lobster dinner gift certificate

Just kidding

These items don't have to be purchased just for our birthday party, the need is always there, especially for paper products, so feel free to donate any time throughout the year.

Thank You very much!



### GOOD NEWS !!

The deacons are pleased to announce that Mr. Paul Smeltzer will serve as our interim Music Minister from February 8th through Easter Sunday. Paul is not only an accomplished pianist but also an outstanding organist, as we all know.

Welcome, Paul!

Thank you for joining us!

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the substitute musicians who have supported us over the past few months. We are truly fortunate, and our search for a full-time Music Minister will continue. We have options.



## Pastoral Candidate Rev. Heidi Grueser

# Welcome



On Sunday, February 15th, we will be welcoming Pastoral Candidate Rev. Heidi Grueser. After months of discussions and meetings, the Pastoral Search Committee will present Rev. Heidi to the congregation during a service, followed by a Q&A session. Following this discussion, church members will be asked to cast their votes.

The committee believes that this candidate possesses many of the qualifications, experience, and qualities we are seeking in our minister. We have shared our findings with the Trustees, and both committees are united in presenting this candidate to the congregation for consideration.

We received numerous applications, reviewed several strong candidates, and conducted Zoom interviews with at least three applicants. We have engaged in extensive conversations with Rev. Heidi, checked her references—both personal and professional—and completed credit and criminal background checks.

### Brief Biography

Pastor Heidi Grueser brings 30 years of ministerial experience and has felt her calling since early childhood. She is ordained through the United Methodist Church and holds a bachelor's degree in Christian Education, along with a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. Additionally, she is a self-proclaimed expert in Biblical History, thanks to her numerous trips to the Holy Land.

Her current role is at a non-denominational Christian Church in Prince George, Virginia, and her previous ministry was in Southwest Florida. She has served as a Chaplain at a pediatric hospital and managed the Ronald McDonald House in both Orlando and Jacksonville, Florida, focusing on children.

Rev. Heidi is a single mother of three adopted daughters: an older daughter who is married and two younger sisters, ages 9 and 10. Their family includes two dogs named Hallelujah and Glory—or Glory Hallelujah!

We were particularly impressed by her energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to children and community. She has inspired her churches to establish thrift shops, currently coaches girls' soccer teams at school, and enjoys engaging with the community.

We have invited her, and she has enthusiastically accepted, to conduct a Sunday service on February 15th. We hope and pray that you find her as inspiring and promising as we have.

Pastoral Search Committee

*Cindy Bland, Marcia Cifaldo, Sharon Landry, Clinton Lanphier, Carolyn Robinson*

# NEW MEMBERSHIP



On January 18th, Rev. January warmly welcomed Ann Gonzalez, along with Zachary and Monique Hobden, into our church family.

The deacons and the congregation extended their hands in fellowship, and we wish them all the best.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On January 18th, we hosted our 2025 Congregational meeting, which was well attended. We extend our gratitude to the outgoing elected officers who generously contributed their time and talents, and we warmly welcome all new and returning officers and board members.



The Ladies Circle prepared a delightfully delicious (although a bit spicy) beef stew, while the Caring and Sharing sisters provided the delicious trifle desserts. Thank you Ladies.



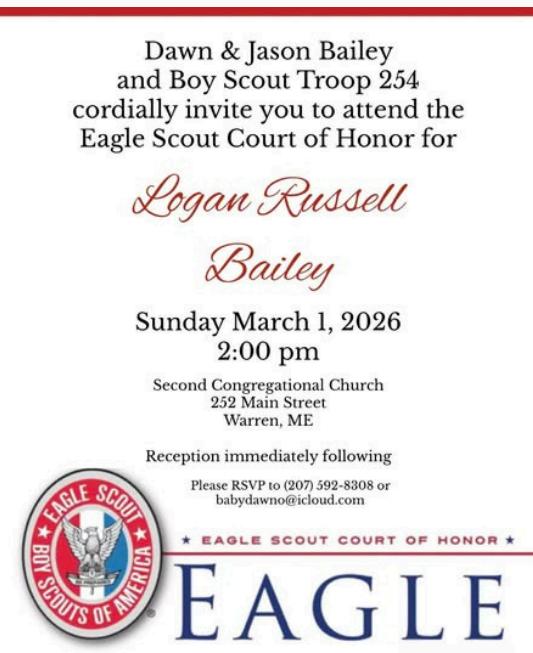


# scout sunday

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

On Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> Scout Pack and Troop 254 will be assisting with our regular Sunday service. Join us as we honor them and their accomplishments. Scout Leaders Jenn Harvey and Jason Bailey will be assisting.

On Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, the scouts will be holding an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Logan Bailey at 2pm. Invitation below. What a proud accomplishment for this young man. We congratulate him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

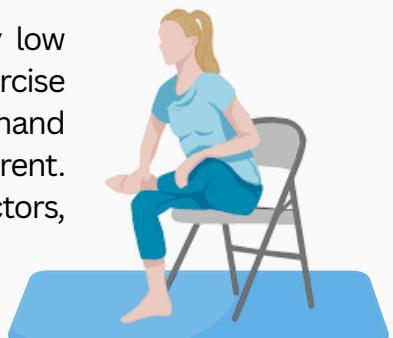


LET'S PLAY  
**guess who this is...**  
DO YOU KNOW?

Here's a delightful little activity for you all. Can you guess who this adorable child is? Need a hint? Look at the eyes. Is there a prize for guessing correctly? Perhaps! Would you like to share your baby photo with us? If so, send it to the office to be put in the next newsletter. Enjoy the guessing game!

**Chair yoga** - after a brief break, our class continues. This is a very low impact, but effective, all seated and occasional standing, Yoga and exercise class. Monday's we mildly stretch, Wednesdays we work with light hand weights and Fridays are for agility and balance. Each workout is different. There is no instructor, we follow along with on-line exercise/yoga instructors, making this class FREE, fun and exciting. This class is open to all ages.

**Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:30 to 9:00am - Join us!**





The NACCC annual meeting in June is being held in Springfield, Mass. NA has partnered with the Seafarers Friend Ministry because it is closely located to the meeting venue.

Seafarers Friend is among the oldest maritime ministries in the United States. Their mission focuses on nurturing meaningful connections and offering spiritual guidance to seafarers seeking comfort and support both at sea and on land.

NA is reaching out to member churches for assistance in filling ditty bags, which are distributed to mariners on ships that dock in port. They are in need of individuals who can knit or crochet hats and scarves to include in these bags, as well as help with sewing the bags themselves.

This initiative not only serves a noble purpose but also makes for a wonderful project during these cold winter days.

For instructions on knitting and sewing, please visit their website at [www.seafarersfriend.org](http://www.seafarersfriend.org) or see Sharon Landry for more information.



**WANTED**  
**knitters**  
**crocheters**  
**sewers**



The **Caring and Sharing Sisters** will be returning from their winter sabbatical for their first meeting of 2026 on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

We have a lot of things planned for 2026 so be watching for information. We are hoping for another Bingo bash luncheon and possible a few paint events and possible book studies, and of course, public suppers. Be watching.

We'd like to congratulate Niva-Jean on becoming a great grandmother. Deagan is the proud father of little James Ryder Thurlow Poland. Big shoes for a little man to fill. And we'd like to congratulate Amanda and George Field, in addition to their daughter Aubree, they now have an infant foster son Anthony. We wish all of God's blessings for these young families.

We also welcome new Member Ann Gonzalez who will be joining us. Ann will be a wonderful asset to our group. Membership is always open to anyone. Our next meeting is March 6th.

Happy  Day!

The **Ladies Circle** will also be returning from their winter sabbatical on Monday March 1st. For information on their upcoming year, contact Cindy Bland. We thank the Ladies Circle for the purchase of the new folding chairs that we have been enjoying in the upper fellowship room. They are so much better than the old metal chairs. Warmer too. Several months ago the LC also purchased the smaller round tables we have been enjoying in the upper room. And thank them for hosting the annual meeting luncheon last month. As always, the food was delicious.

## 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**

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 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 to insure the same people aren't doing cleanup each week.



### **Weekly Offering**

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
12/28/25	53	\$792.00	\$86.00
01/04/26	39	1828.00	N/A
01/11/26	42	1319.00	238.00
01/18/26	46	1099.00	46.00
01/25/26	42	1602.00	78.00

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

208 373,2338

WARREN, MAINE 04864 208-273-2338

**FEBRUARY 2026**

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
1	10:00am Service	2		3		4		5	9-11am CCE	6		7	
M: Nelson Gonzalez						1:00pm Missions							
8	10:00am Service	9		10	9-11am Table Talk	11		12	9-11am CCE	13		14	Valentine Day
M: Paul Smeltzer		Scout Sunday		11:30a Deacon Mtg.				6:30pm Trustee Mtg					
15	10:00am Service	16		17	9-11am Table Talk	18	ASH Wednesday	19	9-11am CCE	20		21	
Visiting Pastoral Candidate		Rev. Heidi Grueser						6:30pm Church Council Mtg					
22	10:00am Service	23		24	9-11am Table Talk	25		26	9-11am CCE	27		28	Men's Group Meeting
1 MARCH		10:00am Service		2pm Scout Court of Honor		9-11am Table Talk		1:00pm Missions				10am Caring Sharing Mtg	
LITURGIST		DEACONS		TRUSTEES		GREETERS				HOSPITALITY			
02/01 Pat Weaver		Kathleen / Susan		02/01 Jeff Creighton		Suspended temporarily				02/01 Men's Group			
02/08 Scouts		Carolyn / Becky		02/08 Irene Maxcy						02/08 Ladies Group			
02/15 Cindy Bland		Susan / Kathleen		02/15 Sandra Overlock						02/15 Congregation			
02/22 Louise Cornforth		Steve / Betty		02/22 Marcia Cifaldo						02/22 C&S Sisters			

NOTE: Above duties subject to change.  
TUES. EVE. AA Group Meet  
THUR. EVE. Scouts Meet

Church Office hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8-12  
Minister Office hours: Wed. 8am-6pm  
Thurs. 12:30-6pm

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