

THE CORNERSTONE – MARCH 2022

Publisher: SCCW/cr

Volume: No.03

Issue: No.03

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren, Maine

P. O. Box 206 – 252 Main Street – Warren, Maine 04864 – (207) 273-2338

Rev. Bette – revbette.sccw@tds.net - Office Administrator: office.sccw@tds.net - Treasurer: treasurer.sccw@tds.net

PASTOR'S PAGE

MARCHing forward! This month is another busy and active month for the church.

The Lenten season begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 2nd. There will not be a formal service, but I will be here all day and there will be an Imposition of Ashes for anyone who desires to come and be "marked" with the ashes, a sign of repentance. We also will begin our Lenten Bible Study on WEDNESDAYS, beginning ON Ash Wednesday, for six weeks. We will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. each Wednesday in the fellowship room. (See article in this newsletter for more details). The paraments (altar cloths) in the sanctuary will be **PURPLE**, a symbol of penitence throughout the weeks of Lent through Holy Week. Lent is a season that lasts 40 days. (Sundays do not count during Lent as EVERY SUNDAY is a celebration of the Resurrection).

As we travel through the next six weeks, in Bible study and also in our worship service, we will focus on Christ's life and his suffering. It's not to be a sad time, but a reflective time for us to ponder deeper and grow spiritually. We might think of the Lenten/penitent season as the "pruning" for our growth. Easter, then, will be our BLOSSOMING! We will have a Mission Moment, mid-month, as well, during our Sunday worship, to discuss our Lenten project (See article in this issue). We also set our clocks AHEAD which is another sign of spring! The vernal equinox (**first day of spring**) occurs on March 20th this year. FINALLY!



From Genesis: "Then the LORD God formed a (hu)man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the (hu)man became a living being."

It is the breath/spirit of GOD that makes us ALIVE HUMAN BEINGS. And yet, ***memento mori*** (Remember you are mortal and will die) - God also says: "You will return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." These are the words we say as we make the sign of the cross on foreheads and hands on Ash Wednesday - to remind us of our mortality and we follow with "Repent, and live the Gospel." We are ALIVE HUMAN BEINGS! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Bette

What it Means to be a Member of a Congregational Christian Church

As we celebrate the 194th birthday of Second Congregational Church it is good to remember what it means to be a member of a Congregational Christian Church. We can be grateful for leaders within the church who continue to do their jobs and for a congregation who supports the work of the church. There is no church without people willing to give their time and resources for what they believe in, in our case, Faith, Freedom and Fellowship. This is the Congregational Way.

The following comes from What it Means to be a Member of a Congregational Church: “In a Congregational Christian Church, all members take unusually large responsibilities because we look upon everyone as having the privilege and duty of sharing the good news of Christ and of exercising within the Church those spiritual functions for which God has endowed them with special talents.”

We come together every Sunday to worship, this is Faith. We can believe as our own faith speaks to us. From the message, the music and the prayers, we come away with inspiration and the feeling we are not alone, God is with us. Always.

Again, I quote: “In our Churches no statement of the Christian faith can be made binding upon the conscience of a Christian man or women. This means that there are differences of emphasis within and among our Churches. Every sincere conviction that exalts our Lord is honored among us.”

Once a month we come together to do the business of the church and once a year we gather for our Annual Meeting. We do not always agree, as no family does, but we democratically vote with no one’s vote more important than another’s. This is Freedom.

And I quote: “Each of our Churches is autonomous and self-governing and entirely free from external control. A Congregational Christian Church is a body of people who have pledged themselves to follow Christ, and who, because they seek to order all of their life and work according to His leading, cannot accept as authoritative the decisions of any other body, since to do so would be to avoid the responsibility of finding God’s way in their own right. The authority within a Congregational Christian Church is the authority of Christ.”

Perhaps Congregationalists do Fellowship best. Our doors are open nearly every day for fellowship, whether Sunday service, a public supper or coffee-hour. Organizations use our fellowship room for their meetings and gatherings. And groups within our church fellowship together every month as well.

One final quote: “The bond of our Christian unity and the fundamental requirement for membership in a Congregational Christian Church are sincere Christian conviction and honest desire to live in fellowship with others as a follower of Jesus Christ.”

What are our hopes for the 194th year of Second Congregational Church? To name a few: continued guidance from our minister, Rev. Bette; the growth of our church, particularly young people; continued outreach through the Children’s Clothing Exchange and Bread for the Journey food pantry; more Mission giving; a helping hand from the Bowe’s Fund and the Discretionary Fund; inspirational music every Sunday; interactive Bible studies. And most importantly, an invitation to all to fellowship with us!

If we open our eyes, we can see all the good that is happening around us and all the good which is to come. Being a member of a Congregational Christian Church comes with responsibility, but our doctrine of Faith, Freedom and Fellowship makes it a worthwhile lifetime commitment. ~ Irene

“Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; those who seek find; and to those who knock, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8



Thinking of becoming a member of our church? Already a member but would like to have a “refresher” course on what it means to be part of the Congregational Church, and to be a Congregationalist? After Easter, Pastor Bette will lead a class on the history, polity and meaning of Congregationalism. Those wishing to become members are encouraged to attend this class, and anyone just wanting to brush up on some of our history and why we do things the way we do, is welcome. Check the April newsletter for the time and day!



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

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.

David Chase
Vella Smith
Jackie Gushee by Tina
Connie Heath
Carol Verdini by Margaret
Diana's aunt Jackie
Dr. Jay Allen by Sterling
Debbie Collemer's dad Colby
Wayne Quinn by Robin
Conner Greeman by Patty Ott
Pat's niece Theresa
The Lanphier's son Nathan
Stuart Mank



Mar. 06 Patty Ames
Mar. 10 Betty Baker
Mar. 13 Mary Gammon
Mar. 13 Sterling Robinson
Mar. 17 Craig Lear
Mar. 22 Lydia Shook
Mar. 24 Wayne Woodman
Mar. 28 Jennifer Blastow
Mar. 29 Amber Hagin
Mar. 31 Bob Jordan

Mar. 01 Joe & Marcia Cifaldo



This N That

MARCH has two birthstones...Aquamarine is the first birthstone for the month, which symbolizes youth, health, and hope. And Bloodstone, which looks very different from aquamarine, is a type of quartz known for its fiery flecks of red, representing strength and stealth.



NOTEWORTHY DATES

- March 2 – Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes... Rev. Bette will be available all day if you desire ashes.
- March 13 - Turn clocks forward
- March 15 - The Ides of March
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 - First day of Spring – March Equinox



FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship coffee hour will resume in March.

Hope Creighton has offered to prepare the COFFEE each week.

The Ladies Circle have offered to host coffee hour the SECOND SUNDAY of every month beginning March 13th.

The Caring & Sharing Sisters have offered to host coffee hour the LAST SUNDAY of every month beginning March 27th.

All other Sundays are open to the Congregation. Meaning you can bring what you like to share. You will be responsible for anything left over and the cleaning up of your items. If paper supplies become low, donations are always welcome. Thank you all very kindly.



LIBRARY NEWS

Hello everyone and sorry for the lack of news as I have been very busy. The good news is the adult books are almost done being reorganized. I have a few more left, then I can work on fixing the kids' books and get some movie donations, to be exact DVD copies of the VHS tapes. Also, there are two books still out; Pontius Pilot and Redwall. We have some books set out free for the taking on the table where the library books are usually kept. March comes and soon winter will give way to spring. With this transition I wish the best for everyone and to make your own transition from an easy winter to a busy spring be gradual and easy.

~ From James Lent, the Wild Rover in the Library



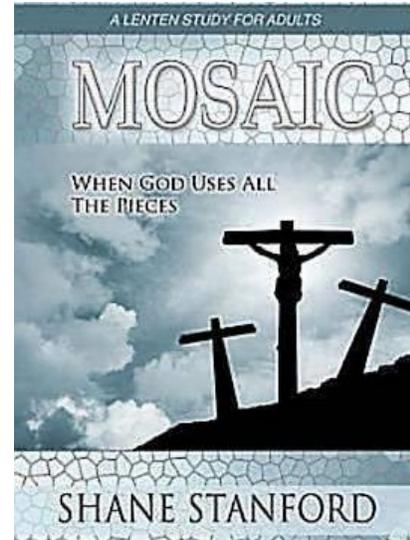
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Our Lenten Bible study will begin on Wed, March 2nd from 10 to 11 a.m. here at the church.

This is a 6-week study. The book we will be using is:

Mosaic: When God Uses All the Pieces: A Lenten Study for Adults by Shane Stanford.

This is available on Amazon, Good Reads, Christian Books, and other websites. Please don't let the cost of the book keep you from coming. We will have copies for those who need them (just let me know).



Stanford's "Mosaic" focuses on how God uses the brokenness in people's lives to make them better. Examine how the God of the universe uses the broken pieces of our lives to reframe our purpose, turning our discarded hopes and dreams into something beautiful and useful--a mosaic in which God uses all of the pieces. The author says, "this journey will take us along the same path Jesus walked in the days surrounding his journey to Jerusalem".

We will see the similarities to our own stories as well as the lessons we should pick, like pebbles along the path. This seven-session study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides one lesson for each week in Lent. Each lesson includes a key Scripture reference, a brief reading, questions for reflection or discussion, a brief prayer, and guided helps for daily Scripture reading and additional reflection in the coming week.

Hope to see you as we journey through the weeks before EASTER!!

LENTEN MISSION



How wonderful!

Our church Mission Committee has chosen Coastal Opportunities for their Lenten project this year.

Coastal Opportunities is the agency that provides services and housing to our church member Jeremy White and services to Leesa Carpenter, daughter of member Karen Carpenter – as well as approximately 80 others!

Coastal Opportunities, located on Limerock Street in Camden, is a private, nonprofit corporation whose mission is to assist adults with developmental disabilities to become participating members of their community.

Coastal Opportunities provides a variety of services to adults in the day and employment programs. At one point in time the services were 'center' based on Limerock Street in Camden. Although that building still houses some activities, the state now mandates the programs be 'community' based, meaning all services/programs take place out in the community. Thus, along with training and employment, there is a lot of volunteer work done by clients *out in the community*. They deliver Meals On Wheels, help with cleaning at Owls Head Transportation Museum and YMCA, assist with spring clean-up at Tanglewood Camp and assist with needs of area churches.

Coastal Opportunities is funded through State and Federal monies, along with donations from families, friends, and communities. The fluctuation in those funds has required some creative thinking by the Director and Board members. The Lenten project monies will be much appreciated and will serve our community in many ways.

A representative from Coastal Opportunities will be
visiting on Sunday March 13 to deliver a
"Mission Moment"

INTERNET AND EMAIL SAFETY



Recently there have been emails circulating asking for money specifically to purchase gift cards to give to the church. Our Pastor and others in the church office would never ask for money in emails. We have reported the issue to our internet service provider (TDS).

We have listed a few things below that you should always keep in mind when using the internet and email.

- Never trust a link sent to you by someone you don't know. By clicking the link, you may be taken to a site that may look like your bank or credit card company, but isn't. One thing a criminal can't fake is the actual website address of a company or bank. Check the link name.
- Never trust an e-mail that asks for your personal or account information (called a phishing scam). These usually seem convincing (the shabby ones have spelling errors, but the high-quality scams look impeccable). No bank or reputable company is going to send you an e-mail asking you to correct your information, validate your identity, re-enter your password, and so on.
- The smarter scams often contain text warning you against fraud. They do this because many people believe that an e-mail that warns them to be careful must be legitimate. That is not always true. This also extends to sites that claim they have protections in place for your privacy and security. Anybody can make these claims, but only certain sites protect you.
- Never respond – or even open an e-mail with a deal that is too good to be true unless it is from a company that you know well and expect to get these kinds of offers from them. Scammers want you to react without taking time to think things through, so their e-mails frequently sound urgent.
- Never believe that someone you don't know is going to give you money.
- Do not believe a person from another country who just needs you to “help transfer funds” and they need your bank account number to do so. Such scammers promise to give you a huge amount of money for helping them out. The result is an empty bank account.
- If you ever feel your email has been compromised, change your password immediately.

Guard your information well. It is better to be rude than to be ripped off, so demand validation, verification, and authentication before giving your information to anyone. If you still feel uneasy, say no or check further. Be safe. *Source: <https://www.atg.wa.gov> & www.aarp.com*

NOTICE FROM THE DIACONATE

Have you been wondering.....?

Some folks have asked 'What is the Deacon's Offering?' The Deacon's Offering, taken the first Sunday of each month, is the income for deacon expenses.

Before we explain our expenses, we should probably explain the *duties* of the deacons. We are responsible for the Sunday morning worship service. Our first and foremost responsibility is to make sure there IS a minister and music minister present to provide a service. Although we are not financially responsible for them, we do have to make sure there is someone to lead us. Along with that are items used to complete and enhance the service, such as,

On communion Sunday there needs to be bread and wine, and during Covid times self-contained sacraments,

During Lent we purchase palms, for Advent there are wreath candles, and on special Sundays we might purchase small tokens to mark the day, Valentine bookmarks, 4th flags, or Advent pillow boxes,

We provide new members with flowers, and, should there be a member in financial stress we might offer assistance.

Throughout the year, we are stewards for the church. Each month during our meeting we set aside time to send out cards (postage costs) to members of our church and community who might be shut in or are out of the area. This past year we sometimes visited shut ins with small spring plants or a bag of cookies.

So, we thank you for remembering the Deacon's Offering on Communion Sunday. It is used to do the good works of our church and our Lord. As Reverend Bette reminded us, by giving you are planting seeds that most likely will come back tenfold. ~*The Diaconate*

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE DIACONATE

January Peavey – Chair
Cindy Bland
Karen Carpenter
Debbie Collemer
Diana Dare – Treasurer
David Landry
Clinton Lanphier
Eric Overlock
Robin Quinn
Gayle White

*For those who have served well as
deacons obtain for themselves a
high standing and great confidence
in the faith that is in Christ Jesus
(1 Tim. 3:13)*

VIDEO AND AUDIO LICENSING

Per the CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International), we should not be videotaping/recording live performances in our church EXCEPT TO THE CHURCH'S OFFICIAL WEBSITES where we are covered. Posting singers/performers on personal social media is against the rules of the copyrights, and we can be libel for that. If you want to share with friends/family, please have them go to our website at www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org. Or they can view it on our official Facebook page.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting this month, ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS will be given to the deacons and they will be reading them on Sunday morning. If you have an upcoming event, or anything that should be announced to the fellowship (not prayer requests, those will be handled during prayer time) please write them out and give them to a deacon on Sunday morning.

MASKING GUIDELINES

The church council has decided that with regards to masking, it should be an individual's personal choice. It is not the position of the church to mandate that its members be required to do anything that may be viewed as being against their personal or medical freedoms as Congregationalists.

FUNDRAISING POLICY

"Fundraising" means any effort to solicit money, goods, or services. All fundraising shall be conducted for the benefit of the Church, a Church ministry, or a cause approved by a Church board or committee. Fundraising is not permitted unless approved by the Trustees. Fundraising conducted by a Church board or committee does not require Trustee approval.

RECOGNITION SUNDAY



Outgoing Deacon: Susan Lombardo
 Outgoing Deacon: Niva-Jean Poland
 Outgoing Pastoral Relations: Sandra Overlock

On Sunday Feb. 13th Rev. Bette and the Diaconate recognized several outgoing officers for their dedication and devotion to time well served to the church.



Outgoing Assistant Clerk: Becky Ruggieri
 Outgoing Assistant Moderator: Eric Overlock



SOUP-er BOWL SUNDAY



We once again have out done previous years by collecting 135 cans of soup for the Bread for the Journey food pantry.
 Thank you all very much.

FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to everyone who donated food for the month of February. The following is a list of suggestions for the month of March.

- March 6 Hot Chocolate
- March 13 Spaghetti sauce
- March 20 Baked Beans
- March 27 Jams and Jellies

Thanks again for the donated food.

SCCW 194TH BIRTHDAY



On Sunday February 27 we celebrated the church's 194th Birthday. Since 1828 many Pastors have led this Congregation and many people have sat in its pews. God continues to show His magnificence through our people, people like you, members and friends of the Second Congregational Church.



Thank you for your generous gifts and continued support, you are all a gift to this church and to this body through your faith and love, we celebrate you.
God has given us the best people.

Photos Courtesy - Hope Creighton

MUSIC MINISTRY SEEKING READERS



This year we are bringing back a favorite tradition for Maundy Thursday, “The Seven Last Words” Cantata. We need a few people to read. Do you love to read out loud? We need a few more volunteers. Choir is also looking for “singers “ to help during Easter season and especially for “The Seven Last Words”. Perhaps you have been part of the choir in the past and would like to be part of a short-term commitment. Choir Rehearsals for this cantata will begin Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 6:00pm. It will be presented at the Maundy Thursday Service in April 14, 2022.

In other news:

The Bell Choir is preparing to attend a Spring Ring in Auburn on March 26, 2022. There will be a bottle drive March 13, 2022 to help cover the cost of the music.

Yours Musically,

Beverly Pacheco

sccwChoir@gmail.com



BOTTLE DRIVE

Hello everyone and thanks to all who brought in bottles for the month of February. For March and April, the money from the box will go towards the bell choir. If you have bottles that need to be picked up, please give us a call at 236-4585. Once again thanks to everyone who brought in for February.

~Sincerely~ Ken and Linda Lent ~ The Bottle Box Committee.

MARCH MEETINGS

- **Missions**
March 2, 12:00noon
- **Diaconate**
March 2, 6:30pm
- **Ladies Circle**
March 7, 10:00am
- **Trustees**
March 10, 6:30 pm
- **Caring & Sharing**
March 14, 6:30 pm

NOTICE

There have been times when the Fellowship door has been left open. Please upon leaving make sure the door is tightly closed and locked. And all lights out. Thank you!

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 staff this important mission. Please see Debbie Collemer.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
02/06/22	35	\$2799.00
02/13/22	60	1970.00
02/20/22	47	1317.00
02/27/22	57	1540.00

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Word Search



- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| CABBAGE | JIG | POT OF GOLD |
| CLOVER | LEPRECHAUN | RAINBOW |
| CORNED BEEF | LUCKY | SHAMROCK |
| GREEN | MARCH | ST PATRICK |
| IRELAND | PARADE | TRADITION |



DOWNLOAD MORE FREE PRINTABLES AT WWW.PISANDPAINT.COM

Here's to the Irish...May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.