

THE CORNERSTONE MAY - 2024



A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren
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The birthstone for May is the **Emerald**. This makes sense, especially here in Maine where the trees, grass and flowers come alive and there is such a rich **greenness** all around! After the neutral gray/ brown drabness when the snow melts, the vivid color is nearly blinding in its intensity!



One of my favorite women religious is Hildegard of Bingen. A true Renaissance woman, BEFORE the Renaissance, Hildegard was a German Benedictine abbess, active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages. Aside from her poetry, knowledge of plants and herbs, her powerful spirituality is what draws me in. She famously wrote: **“There is a power that has been since all eternity, and that force and potentiality is green!”** Hildegard names this greening force *viriditas*, the Latin for her original “das Grün,” the **greening**. With *viriditas* Hildegard captures the greening power, the living light that breathes in all beings, flows through all that is alive. Her teaching reminds us of our deep connection with the life force which sustains the cosmos and also every living being. Hildegard believed, “*Viriditas* is the natural driving force toward healing and wholeness, the vital power that sustains all life's greenness.”

So, when we look around in the next few weeks, at all of the **green, lush abundance that surrounds us**, let us remember the healing and wholeness that God brings us – in the light of the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

“Those who trust in riches will be ruined, but a good person will be healthy like a **green** leaf.”
Proverbs 11:28

Be blessed,
Pastor Bette

From “God’s Green Earth”

We live on this beautiful blue
marble called "Earth"
Given to us by the Creator.
From its green, lush grasslands
To sparkling, blue oceans,
From white, twinkling mountaintops
To the mysterious depths of the sea,
From the white, sandy beaches
To the green, peaceful forests,
All can see what the Lord has made.
His creativity is on for all to see.
The whole earth He has filled with beauty.
Stand in awe of what He has done
For what He has made is good
~ Boston Kelley ~

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SCCW

May 4 – 10:00 am Membership Class

May 7 – 1:00pm First Bible Study on the book of James

May 9 – 5:00pm - **First Public Church Supper** –

This will be a spaghetti/meatball/meat sauce dinner with Ceasar Salad, garlic bread and PIES!!!. Cost \$10

May 12 – Mother's Day

May 19th – Pentecost Sunday - Baptisms and Memberships during service

– PENTECOST -BAPTISM – MEMBERSHIP

May 4th at 1:00pm – Membership Class.

50 days after Easter, we will celebrate the birthday of the Church! The celebration of Pentecost is our response to the gift of the Holy Spirit which was given to all people!

Traditionally, we wear red clothing and sing songs praising the Holy Spirit. To add to the excitement of the day, we will be celebrating baptisms and the taking in of new members. What a powerful reminder of how the Holy Spirit of God works in us and through us every day. Just as the Church grew in number on the first Pentecost, we still continue to grow even today. Thanks be to God!

RSVP REMINDER

If you plan to attend the wedding of Pat Weaver and Sam Chapman on Saturday July 20th, please get your RSVP in as soon as possible. They need an official head count for their caterers. You can call, email, or send in your RSVP card if you have one.



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 before having them added to the prayer list. *(In some instances, we know that this may not be possible)*. If your loved one has received the healing Grace of God, please let us know so we can remove them from the prayer list.

GOD'S PRAYERS

Lorraine Strout by Linda K.
Daniel by Melody S.
Bob Carpenter
Nathan by Clint L.
Lois Silloway by Linda L.
Joel Kinney by Janice O.
Rev. Bill Meyer
Robert Littlehale
Lee Houghton

Stuart Mank
Gabe DeRaps
Wayne Quinn
Gilbert Dare by Diana
Sheila A. by Tina B.
Emily Van Kleeck
Gabe Payson by Pat W.
Jamie by Sterling R.
Pearl Stetson

Jennifer Blastow
Stan Waltz by Melody
Cathy Clough by Becky
Gloria Ouellette by Deb C.
Heidi White by Janice O.
Sue Mercier by Linda L.
Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Mary Lee Melvin
Jim Pacheco

Happy Birthdays - May

- 2 Nancy Braun
- 3 Mary Field
- 3 Sonja Wyllie
- 9 Wes Ames
- 15 Sandra Overlock
- 15 Marilyn Chase
- 16 Barbara Hart
- 29 Cindy Gardner

Happy Anniversary - May

- 6 Gus & Becky Ruggieri
- 15 Steve & Susan Lombardo
- 18 Jeff & Hope Creighton
- 19 Wayne & Robin Quinn



The CCC Maine State meeting was held on April 6th at the N. Deering Congregational Church in Portland. Pat Weaver was 1 of 7 in attendance and submitted the following report of the day's activities.

We met at the church at 6:00 am on Saturday. There were seven of us ready to head out even with some sleet but the trip was good and everyone was excited, even with the early start and questionable weather.

We arrived in Portland around 7:30 and was treated to a great breakfast, a mixer of fruit, eggs, sausage, juice and of course, plenty of coffee. I met with the Moderator Fred Fortier with a short meeting and then Doug Fogg, Youth Minister from Orrington, Vance, Vice Moderator, and another couple joined us. I had a very interesting and in-depth conversation with both Doug and Vance.

We then went upstairs to the Sanctuary; this is a beautiful church. We began with a worship service with song and praise. Mike Glidden, Pastor of North Deering, brought the word of God through a wonderful, inspiring message. We closed with communion and song. We then broke for a break and to stretch our legs. We went back to the Sanctuary for an interesting workshop called "What color are you?" It had to do with what kind of personality you are. We were introduced to Bill Diamond, former Maine State Senator and former Maine Secretary of State, who founded "Walk a mile in their shoes". This is a comprehensive study on foster care in Maine. Maine has the highest deaths of children in foster care than the whole of United States. The study deals with why and how this is happening and what needs to be done about this. One reason is lack of personnel to handle the case load, the rise in numbers of children in foster care. This is their Mission statement: "Our mission and purpose are the prevention of child homicides and the abuse of children who are under the supervision or care of the State of Maine or who are or have been associated with the child welfare system in any manner." There was such emotion during this session, especially when Melanie Blair, a biological, adoptive and foster parent, spoke of her experiences dealing with the government agencies. If you want to know more about this non-profit, get involved or donate, their website is walkamilemaine.org.

After this session we all broke for lunch, and what a lunch it was. Several different types of lasagna, salad and fresh bread, plenty of coffee and juice. Desert was cookies and ice cream. We went back to the Sanctuary to hear a talk on Substance Abuse by Leann Dodge, she did a couple of interacting demonstrations with the most interesting reasoning of why some get involved with drugs. She pointed out our generation had candy cigarettes and penny candy (the little round dots on a strip of paper). I see now that could be a beginning of how great it would be if they were real. It was something to think about!! She also pointed out what could cause someone to start taking drugs, this was very interesting and a lot to think about. Julie Robie also gave a talk and slide presentation of the directors of the NACCC Missions programs. (continued next page)



We then went into the business meeting. Opening Prayer/Covenant by Pastor Vance Jordan. Remembrance of those who have passed/Necrology. Thank you to Rev. Michael Glidden and North Deering Church for their hospitality.

Fred Fortier, Moderator, gave a State of CCC, his words were "Good things are happening for CCCMe, more communication and fellowship." We have lost a couple of churches but we have gain 2-3. Treasurers report was given and accepted. It was reported that Camp Winni will be happening if we can get the children, now is the time to get the applications in.

Election of officers:

- Moderator— Rev. Bette Bond-Second Congregation Church-Warren;
- Vice Moderator—Rev. Mark Tanner-Federated Church-Skowhegan;
- Scribe—Robin Quinn-Second Congregational Church-Warren;
- Treasurer—Rhoda Glidden-North Derring Congregational Church-Portland;
- Ambassadors:
 - Rev. Catherine Angela-Second Congregational Church-Biddeford;
 - Rev. Mike Carter-First Congregational Church-So. Paris;
 - Rev. Doug Drown-Saunders Memorial Church-Little Deer Isle;
 - Doug Fogg-Youth Minister- East Orrington Congregational Church;
- Assistant Ambassadors:
 - Rev. Fred Fortier, and
 - Rev. Vance Jordan-Sebago Center Community Church-Sebago;
 - Rev. Colin Windhorst-Dennysville, Perry, and Robbinston/Sewall Memorial Churches;
 - Pat Weaver-Second Congregational Church-Warren.

2024 Fall State meeting will be in Skowhegan 2025 Spring State Meeting-South Paris
2025 Fall State meeting-Brownsville. All dates to be determined.
Meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.

I would like to thank all who drove to Portland. The Fellowship and meeting old friends and getting to know new friends is something that I enjoy at these meetings, to find out what is happening in other church's, having the same joys and the same hardships and to know that you are not alone in what we face. A side note, Second Congregational church had the most attendance again this year.



Warren Princesses attending:
Kat Lanphier, Carolyn Robinson, Marcia Cifaldo, Sharon Landry, Robin Quinn, Sue Chipman, not pictured Pat Weaver.

AIO WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AIO welcomes Alan Kearl who joins our outstanding staff team as our new Executive Director. Here's a little bit about Alan. We hope you'll get to know him better as he settles into his position. After 12 years of commuting 7-9 hours each way, each week, to his work home, his wife Beckie, who held down their Tenants Harbor home, had enough.



Last fall, Alan left a nearly 40-year career in the beauty industry to live and work year-round in the community they've grown to love. Most weekends, they'll be out on long walks on trails and backroads, listening simultaneously to a mystery. Beckie is a writer and has two novels, both set in Maine. Alan started volunteering at AIO six months ago and was excited to learn that the Executive Director role was open. Along with shelter, health, employment, and community, having enough food is among the top five needs humans must satisfy to thrive.

Alan is excited to join AIO full-time and join forces with a deep bench of committed and passionate volunteers and donors to build a strong food network in our community. Alan says, "AIO is a great personal opportunity to join two of my great passions: 1) providing food for family and friends, and 2) community service." He has taken numerous courses at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City, grew up sampling his mother's annual holiday chocolate creations, and then followed in her footsteps, making and dipping more than 50 pounds of chocolates each year, and even completed an online restaurant management course from Cornell's School of Culinary Education. In addition to this passion for food, Alan has volunteered with various organizations, including the Scouting organization, the PTA, the Visiting Nurse Association, serving as a language partner in an ESL program, and many years of church service. Alan considers himself lucky to have joined such a strong organization as AIO and looks forward to meeting and working with so many of you who give so much. AIO is fortunate to have him! Alan can be reached at alan@aiofoodpantry.org or at the office at 207-596-1043.

Bread for the Journey



MAY REQUESTS:

Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Baked Beans, Canned veggies, soups.

Any non-perishable food items always accepted.

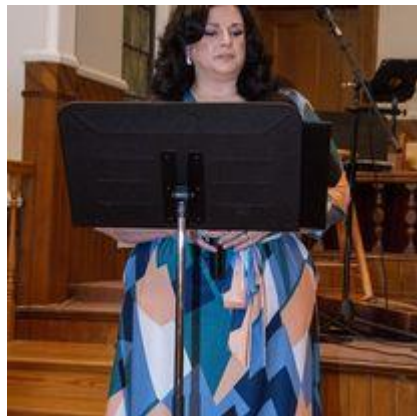
SPRING FLING

The Tenth Annual Spring Fling Night of Music was once again a big hit. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who contributed to the success of this year's event. With over **125** in attendance, the Spring Fling Night of Music was a big hit!

The Caring & Sharing Sisters are immensely thankful for your unwavering support. A big thank you to those who helped put together an unforgettable evening filled with music and fellowship. The performers, with their talent and dedication, were amazing. With a few "hillbilly" surprises!

Your generous donations will directly benefit homeless students in Knox County through the Homeless Student Initiative. These funds will provide much-needed assistance, ensuring that these students have access to essential resources and support. Your kindness will make a tangible difference in their lives.

On the next page is a thank you letter submitted by Nancy Stover, Initiative Coordinator.



Thanks to Hope Creighton for being our resident photographer. Awesome pictures. You can view more photos and videos on our Facebook page.

April 30, 2024

Dear Second Congregational Church Community,

On behalf of RSU 40, I wish to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation to our Homeless Student Support Fund. Your gift will directly benefit students in our district who are facing homelessness and housing insecurity.

As educators, we understand how housing instability and homelessness create immense challenges for students trying to learn and succeed in school. Your donation will provide vital assistance to these vulnerable children and youth, helping to cover costs for school supplies, clothing, transportation (i.e. taxi service for school events or appointments), phone cards, tutoring services, and other critical needs. With this support, we can help mitigate some of the obstacles before them and create a more stable learning environment.

Thank you for your compassion and for being a community partner invested in the well-being and success of our students. Donations like yours reinforce our efforts to ensure every child has equitable access to a quality education, regardless of their living situation. We are grateful for your commitment to this important cause.

With appreciation,

Nancy Stover
Nancy Stover
RSU 40 McKinney-Vento Coordinator

*Thank
you!*



Rosey & Lise



Rev. Bette and Tim Hill in deep conversation



Congratulations

James Lent, church member and part-time librarian here at SCCW recently earned his Eagle Scout rank.

Congratulations James, job well done!
God bless you in all your future endeavors.

The following article was published on Village Soup.

James Lent achieved the highest award in Scouting, the Eagle Scout rank, during a ceremony held in his honor at the Rockport Masonic Center on April 28.

James, the son of Kenneth and Linda Lent of Rockport, finished his Scouting trail as a member of Troop 200 in Camden but he was also a member of Troop 206 in Rockland/Rockport and Troop 215 in Thomaston. Troop 200 Scoutmaster Ed Weber said, "We were very happy to be a part of James' Scouting journey."

Jeremiah Loft of Standish made the journey to present James with a candle lantern to guide his way and a tomahawk which is the traditional gifts given to those who attain Eagle Scout rank and were members of the Bushwack program at Camp Bomazeen. Scouts in the Bushcraft Program relive the adventurous time of exploration in the early 1800s, using a real forge to make tools like knives, shoot black-powder rifles, cook over a campfire and live camp life just as the pioneers did during the days before electricity and phones and automobiles. They stay in period clothing and build things like boats, lanterns, stools and baskets as did those who lived in those days. Every Scout who completed that program received a Bushcraft name. James' Bushcraft name is Wild Rover.

James passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on Feb. 19 after completing his Eagle Scout Service Project which was completed last October. He built a diorama sign at Rockport's Marine Park to explain the historical significance of the narrow-gauge Vulcan steam engine. He started his project during the Covid pandemic which added to his challenges but he persevered. "I am pleased that after all that took place, I could get it done," he said. He completed the project for Legacy Rockport which the group and the town restored two years ago.

James is an active member of the Masons and provides assistance preparing meals for the organization.

MAY MEETINGS

- **Missions Meeting**
Wednesday May 1 - Noon
- **Deacon Meeting**
Thursday May 2 – 4:00pm
- **Ladies Circle**
Monday May 6 – 10:00am
- **Caring & Sharing Sisters**
Monday May 6 – 6:30pm
- **Trustee Meeting**
Thursday May 9– 6:30pm
- **Men’s Group Meeting**
Sat. May 25 - 9:00 am



Bottle redemption to benefit THE CHILDREN’S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Returnable box is in the downstairs Fellowship room. We thank you kindly for your donations.

Please empty your bags directly into the tall brown box. The redemption center does not want smaller bags. Thank you!

REMINDER: On several occasions lately the fellowship room door has been left unlocked or unlatched. Please when you leave push the door shut to make sure it has latched fully and locked.

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 a few printed copies available as well.

Visited our website recently?
www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org



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 to this newsletter, please don’t hesitate to contact the office. We are also on Facebook



On-Line giving is now available. [Click this link.](#)

THANK YOU

for your continued support.



Date	Attendance	Offering	Missions
04/07	51	3454.00	495.00
04/14	67	1520.00	123.00
04/21	59	1093.00	75.00
04/28	55	1230.00	32.00

THANKS FOR READING

This newsletter is E-mailed each month.

To insure you get your copy make sure we have your correct email address. Printed and regular USPS mailed copies are available upon request.

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

May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	6 10:am Ladies Circle 6:30p Caring/Sharing	7 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	8	9 9-11am CCE 4:00pm Deacons Mtg	10 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Mtg. CHURCH SUPPER	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	13 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	14 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	15	16 9-11am CCE	17	18
19 PENTECOST 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS Baptism/Memberships	20 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	21 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	22	23 9-11am CCE	24	25 9:00am Men's Mtg
26 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	27 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	28 9-11am Coffee Chat 1:PM Bible Study	29	30 9-11am CCE	31	1 JUNE
LITURGIST 05/05 Aleta Mank 05/12 Donna Lewis 05/19 Melody Saimio 05/26 Karen Carpenter	DEACONS 05/05 Wes A. & Michelle B. 05/12 Robin Q. & Michelle R. 05/19 Cindy B. & Karen C. 05/26 Robin Q. & Wes A.	TRUSTEES 05/05 Sterling Robinson 05/12 Jeff Creighton 05/19 Irene Maxcy 05/25 Sandra Overlock	GREETERS 05/05 Tina B. & Carolyn R. 05/12 Janice O. & Susie O. 05/19 Betty D. & Val M. 05/26 Nola S. & Freda H.	HOSPITALITY 05/05 Ladie's Group 05/12 Men's Circle 05/19 Congregation 05/26 Caring/Sharing		

NOTE: Above duties are subject to change. Office hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8-12 Rev. Bette visiting hours: Mon: 10-1 Tues:2-6 Thurs: 2-6

Chair Yoga – Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30am