

# THE CORNERSTONE

## APRIL 2023

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren  
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### P A S T O R S P A G E

*April is the cruelest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain. (TS Eliot)*



Spring is so close we can almost feel and taste it! Even when it snows, we have hope it will be short-lived and soon gone. My maple trees have tiny buds – not open, but READY! I hear the birds every morning, and I saw a butterfly already - nature KNOWS! The weatherman may not know, and we may not know, but nature does and flowers come up and birds arrive and peepers peep because they are more in tune with things than we are. God brings everything to fruition in its perfect time. We can trust God to cue the sun to rise each morning, and to set it down at night. Isn't it nice that WE don't have to be in charge of all of this? It's a lesson for us all to trust God in ALL THINGS. The One who keeps the world spinning on its axis, keeps the planets in motion, rules the skies and seas can surely take care of us.

The season of Lent ends the day before Easter. We have Palm Sunday followed by the Passion Week/Holy Week. As Easter approaches, we begin to feel lighter – not just physically because our spirits are lifted by the springtime, but also spiritually. The heaviness and solemnity of the past six weeks, fasting, praying, giving to the needy, are leading us to this last week. The culmination of all of Christ's teachings and his reason for coming into the world - the suffering and agony of the cross, and the glorious Resurrection of Christ on Easter morn! Journey with us through the next few weeks as we celebrate the season with Scripture, special music (including a cantata on Maundy Thursday), and the "Great Gettin' Up Mornin' on Easter Sunday. This is THE day to be in church!!

*".... a time is coming when all who are in their graves will  
hear his voice and come out..." John 5:28-29*

*Pastor Bette*

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 6 - 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service Cantata

April 9 - 6:30 am - Sunrise Service on the Lawn

7:00 am - Men's Pancake Breakfast in the Upper room

10:00 am - Easter Sunday Service

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

April 8 - 9:30-10:30 am Easter Egg Painting Event & Bunny visit

April 15 - 6-8:00 pm - Annual Spring Fling-A Night of Music

April 16 - CAKE!! Missions will be celebrating the Children's

Clothing Exchange 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary after service. (See page 7)

April 20 - 1-2 pm - Bible study begins

April 30 - Hymn Sing Sunday



Starting April 20, we will begin a new Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew. We will meet Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm. Everyone is welcome! We've been mostly having women at our studies, so we invite (and challenge) the MEN to join us!

All you need is your Bible and a willingness to learn and share God's Word. PB

\* \* \* \* \*



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 player list. *(In some instances, we know that this may not be possible).*

### GOD'S PRAYERS

Bill Meservey by Patty Overlock  
Bob Carpenter  
Diann Lent by Kenny Lent  
Sherry Ladd  
Eric Overlock  
Jane Waltz  
Jane Parks by Linda L.  
Lanphier's son Nathan  
Lorraine Strout by Linda K.  
Patrick Leary by Margaret  
Rev. Bill Meyer  
Rev. Wayne Sawyer  
Romeo Jackson by Melody S.  
Baby Eldon by Emily B.  
Earlene by Lee Houghton  
Arlene by Mark & Jane W.  
Ray Sleeper by Patty Overlock

Wayne Quinn by Robin Q.  
Elizabeth Rodi by Robin Q.  
Alice Calendar by Robin Q.  
Connie Heath  
Peter Richards  
Jackie Gushee by Tina B.  
Jeff & Stacy by Michelle  
Dominic by Carolyn R.  
Dr. Jay Allen by Sterling R.  
Khyllie Cochran by Wes A.  
Stuart Mank  
Betty Philbrook-Collins  
Nathanael Read (Age 9)  
Nico (Age 13) by Rev. Bette  
Kristi Braun by Nancy Braun  
Joel Kinney by Janice O.



Apr. 04	Angela Field
Apr. 10	Haley Mank
Apr. 14	Marcia Cifaldo
Apr. 14	Addy Ruggieri
Apr. 17	Linda Lent
Apr. 17	Bill Howard
Apr. 22	Susan Lombardo
Apr. 22	Beverly Pacheco
Apr. 23	Cathy Lawrence
Apr. 25	Michelle Bradley
Apr. 28	Marvin Lewis



Apr. 18	David & Gayle White
Apr. 25	David & Sharon Landry
Apr. 30	Gerald & Evelyn Anderson



### **EASTER FLOWER ORDERS...**

THANK YOU FROM PATTY OVERLOCK FOR THE EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWER ORDERS. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THE CHANCEL WILL BE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED FOR EASTER.





On March 12, 2023  
Michael Ivan Castillo  
was baptized.



Parents Ivan and Ashley Castillo were beaming with smiles and pride as little Michael was baptized. Michael's mom Ashley shared a tender moment with Rev. Bette.



*Michael Ivan Castillo*



**Child of God**  
Know that you  
were formed by  
**God's Hands,**  
Dreamed up in  
**His Heart** and  
placed in this world for a  
**Purpose.**





To our Church family and friends... The Caring and Sharing Sisters would like to thank all those who attended the March 26<sup>th</sup> Bingo Luncheon. Nearly 40 were in attendance to enjoy a meal and bingo games. Our purpose is to Care and Share and promote fellowship within our church and community. Thanks to all the sisters who helped put this together. And a special thanks to our "caller" Walter Kaler. Our next monthly meeting is April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6:30pm. If you are interested, join us.



The Men's Group will be meeting on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

The Men's group will also be hosting the annual Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast following the Sunrise Service on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please join us.



# CHILDREN'S Sunday School



On March 26<sup>th</sup> Becky introduced the children to the "Mustard Seed". After their lesson they enjoyed a craft and snack.



## APRIL MUSICAL EVENTS:

### Save the Dates for Music

**April 6** - 7:30pm Maundy **Thursday** Service  
Our Choir will share Dallas Holm's "His Last Days" Cantata.

**April 15** – 6 to 8pm  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling (see below)

**April 30** - 10am Service  
Congregation Hymn Sing Sunday

**May 21** – Save this date – 3:00pm  
Midcoast Brass Quintet and SCCW Handbell Choir Benefit Concert for AIO Food Pantry.

If you are interested in sharing music for a service. Please choose your music and contact me to schedule a time to practice and a date to share.

Also, if you would like a copy of the older hymnbook, please see me or send me a note.

I appreciate all your prayers and thoughts.

 Beverly



On April 15<sup>th</sup>, after a very long break for reasons out of our control, the Caring & Sharing Sisters will be hosting their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling – A Night of Music. This year's theme: "With a Song in your Heart" will feature many of your favorites plus a few new performers coming to our 'stage' to thrill and entertain you. This is a show you won't want to miss. Your love offering will benefit the *Warren Community School Music Department and Chorus* under the direction of Mr. James Boyd. The children will be performing and are very excited to be a part of this show. Please come and support them. Bring a friend! For more info, call the church office.





On Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Missions will be celebrating ten years of the Children's Clothing Exchange. There will be baskets available for donations of gently used or NEW spring/summer children's clothing Newborn to size 14.

Please plan to help celebrate this milestone with a birthday cake! And a huge thank you to Susan Lombardo for her dedication from the beginning, as well as all the volunteers who have lent a hand over the years. ~Irene Maxcy

For the history of the CCE, see "Two Churches, Serving Together", published in the June 2020 edition of the Congregationalist. *Reprinted below.*



Irene Maxcy is Chair of the Missions Board at Second Congregational Church of Warren, Maine.



Children's Clothing Exchange

### Two Churches, Serving Together By Irene Maxcy

The heart of small-town Warren, Maine, lies on the banks of the St. George River, which runs right through our Main Street. On Main Street you can find the post office, library, St. George River Cafe, and two churches within walking distance of one another, Second Congregational Church of Warren (SCCW) and Warren Baptist Church (WBC). Even though we are of different denominations, we like to call ourselves "sister churches." We share a summer service in the park, Vacation Bible School, and alternate between churches for Thanksgiving eve services. But the tie that brings us together week after week is the Old Brick School Community Center, located directly behind WBC.

The Old Brick School was once a high school, middle school and primary school, at different times throughout its history. At auction in 2014, the WBC bought the school, by then in need of extensive repair. With the help of many volunteers and much fundraising, the Old Brick School is now a community center and houses the Bread for the Journey food pantry and the Children's Clothing Exchange. The WBC oversees the food pantry with the help of volunteers from SCCW; and members of our church keep the racks full and manage the Children's Clothing Exchange. Both ministries moved into the Old Brick School in 2017.

The Children's Clothing Exchange started out as community outreach, offering good used infant clothes to anyone in need. In 2013 it was resurrected as the Clothes Closet with the help of our then minister the Reverend Andy Stinson. For nearly four years, on the first Saturday of the month, volunteers unpacked totes of children's clothing and spread them out on tables according to size. From 9 am until noontime anyone who wanted good, used clothing for their children could shop in our Fellowship Room free of charge. We then had to pack up the clothes and store the totes in a single closet, hence the name, Clothes Closet. Needless to say, it was labor-intensive, and that's without mentioning the time spent sorting and sizing the donations. Why we didn't give up on this ministry I'm not sure. Perhaps it was faith that someday the Clothes Closet would have a permanent home. Or maybe it was a baby's smile, a toddler finding a

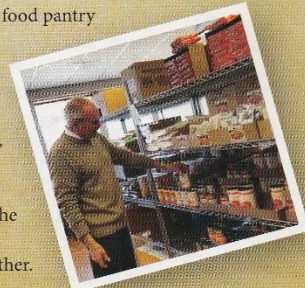
book he could keep, or a school age girl filling a bag with clothes of her own choosing. Whatever the reason we persevered.

Long before our move to the Old Brick School, Rev. Andy led a visioning session with all the volunteers and our Clothes Closet manager, Susan Lombardo, who has volunteered her time from the beginning. We were amazed at how similar our hopes and dreams were for the Clothes Closet's future. The following came out of that visioning session:

1. First and foremost the Clothes Closet will always be God centered.
2. We will extend hospitality to all who come through our door no matter their circumstances.
3. A permanent home for the Clothes Closet came up time and time again.
4. At some time in the future the Clothes Closet will become the "Clothes Closet and More" and generate income for other mission projects.
5. Our entire church community will share their individual gifts, making the Clothes Closet a resource for the wider community.
6. The Clothes Closet will be a place where parents and their children can come and feel cared about... a place of hope.
7. The Clothes Closet will be multifaceted, providing outreach to parents and children needing services, but not knowing where to find them.

Have we reached all these goals? Not at all, but since April 2013, we have been true to our mission, to provide quality used children's clothing, while extending an expression of love, hope and caring. With the move to the Old Brick School the name was changed to Children's Clothing Exchange in hopes of encouraging all economic levels to participate in this ministry. The dedication over the years has been astounding to watch and the hours devoted cannot be counted. The amount of clothes given away is beyond measure. This is just as true for the Bread for the Journey food pantry. In their case it is food, but the dedication is equal.

The two rooms housing the food pantry and the children's clothing stand side by side, just as do our two churches. God's work is not only done inside the four walls of our churches, but inside this Old Brick School with each and every person we encounter. This is the work we are called to do week after week, faithfully and together.



Staffer at Food Pantry

# FAIR SHARE

I am so pleased to announce that this year we are FAIR SHARE PLUS! This is the first year, since I have been heading up the Fair Share drive, that we have made the goal, without asking the groups for help! This is awesome, and it is all due to each and every one of you. Thank you so much for your help. It is very much appreciated, both at our own Church and at the NA level. Let's keep up the good work! *Marcia*



## Congregational Christian Council of Maine (CCCME)

The CCC ME State Spring meeting will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 2:00pm. Plan to attend and meet members from our sister Church's.

**East Orrington Congregational Church**  
38 Johnson Mill Rd,  
Orrington, ME 04474



On Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>, our NA Executive Director will be visiting us here at Second Congregational Church. Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere will join us for our church service and then at a luncheon immediately following the service. She will visit with us and exchange ideas. She will take questions or comments from any and all of us. It will be a special day, so mark your calendars now and plan on coming to meet with Ashley!

A special thank you to all our members for all they do for our church. We wouldn't be Second Congregational without each one of you.

*Bless you all, Marcia*





A few months ago, I did a Mission Moment on one of the missions we support and is dear to my heart. I wanted to share these human trafficking survivor stories to help paint a picture of the many forms and places human trafficking can take place here in the United States. To learn more about these survivors and their journeys, <https://theexodusroad.com> -Pat Weaver

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCURS IN EVERY STATE IN AMERICA, AN ECONOMY THRIVING IN INVISIBILITY.**

Exploitation is often buried in basements and dark hallways of everyday businesses, experienced on windowless factory floors and suffered by hundreds of thousands of people trapped in low-paying, degrading, or backbreaking jobs. Trafficking crime takes place on social media, in massage parlors, on rural farms, in homes, on street corners—right in your own community.

According to the [Global Slavery Index](#), more than 400,000 people are currently trapped in slavery in the United States. To understand the realities of trafficking, we must start with listening to human trafficking survivor stories and bearing witness to their experiences.

### **-ELIZABETH: TRAFFICKED BY HER OWN PARENTS**

Elizabeth Frazier was first trafficked by her parents when she was just four years old, and the exploitation continued until she was 23. Everyone around her believed her life was normal, and so did she—until she was able to learn the reality of her situation and escape.

### **-BARBARA: TRAFFICKED IN DC, SOLD IN NYC**

Barbara Amaya was abducted at the age of 12 on the streets of Washington, DC by a couple who sold her into human trafficking. She was sold to a man who took her to New York and trafficked her for many years.

### **-LIZ: TRAFFICKED AND FORCED INTO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Liz Williamson's mom trafficked her at just six years old. For the next twelve years, Liz was sold to men and recorded for child pornography. She escaped as a young adult thanks to the kindness of an attentive bus driver.

### **-NATALIA: TRAFFICKED AS A DOMESTIC SERVANT**

Natalia was 13 years old when she was sent with family friends from Ghana to the U.S. for an education and to learn English. Soon after she arrived, the physical and sexual abuse began. She was forced to do domestic work for 18 hours a day without being paid. Natalia was not allowed to go to school, use the phone, or even go outside.

### **-CHERI: TRAFFICKED AS A YOUNG MOTHER**

Cheri Crider was trafficked years before the government enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. She had a child as a result of a sexual assault, and in order to protect her baby, she worked in the sex industry for a man she called her "business manager." After many years, she eventually escaped. Now, she courageously shares her story as anti-trafficking advocacy.

# From the office...

## MARCH MEETINGS

- **Ladies Circle Meeting**  
*Mon. Apr. 3 – 10am*
- **Caring & Sharing Meeting**  
*Mon. Apr. 3 – 6:30pm*
- **Missions Meeting**  
*Wed. Apr. 5 – 12noon*
- **Deacon Meeting**  
*Wed. Apr. 5 – 6:30pm*
- **Trustees Meeting**  
*Thur. Apr. 13, 6:30pm*
- **Men's Group Meeting**  
*Sat. Apr. 29, 9:00am*

- 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

If you have information you would like to add please don't hesitate to contact the office.

[www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org](http://www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org)

We are also on Facebook

## BOTTLE DRIVE

FUNDRAISING



Bottle redemption to benefit

## THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Returnable box is in the downstairs Fellowship room



Visited our website recently?

Everything you could possibly want to know is within its pages. We encourage you to visit often.

*NOTE: If anyone has any suggestions for articles or stories for the newsletter please contact the office.*



The food barrel is in the Church lobby. If anyone would like to make a donation, please feel free to bring in any non-perishable food item to benefit Bread for the Journey, which is open to all Warren residents on Thursdays from 9 to 11am.



Date	Attendance	Offering	Missions
03/05/23	39	\$ 2413.00	\$1464.00
03/12/23	64	1437.00	241.00
03/19/23	50	1452.00	143.00
03/26/23	48	886.00	83.00



# SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

# April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 April Fool's Day
2 10am Service CH: Congregation	3 10-a Ladies Circle 6:30p Caring/Sharing	4 9-11a Coffee Chat	5 10:45a Bell Choir 12n Missions 5:30p Choir 6:30pm Deacon Mtg.	6 MAUNDY 9-11am CCE 7:00pm Service	7	8
9 Easter Sunday Sunrise 6:30a Breakfast 7:00a Service 10:00a	10	11 9-11a Coffee Chat	12	13 9-11am CCE 6:30p Trustees Mtg	14	15 9th Annual Spring Flng 6:00pm
16 10am Service Holy Humor Sunday CCE 10th Celebration (Cake)	17	18 9-11a Coffee Chat	19	20 9-11am CCE 1-2pm Bible Study 6:30p Council Mtg.	21	22
23 10am Service CH: Congregation	24	25 9-11a Coffee Chat	26	27 9-11am CCE 1-2pm Bible Study	28	29 9am Mens Group Mtg.
30 10am Service Hymn Sing CH: Caring/Sharing	MAY 1 10-a Ladies Circle 6:30p Caring/Sharing	2 9-11a Coffee Chat	3 10:45a Bell Choir 12n Missions 5:30p Choir	4 9-11am CCE 1-2pm Bible Study 6:30pm Deacon Mtg	5	6
LITURGIST		DEACONS		TRUSTEES		GREETERS
04/02 Donna Lewis	04/02 Gayle/January	04/02 Irene Maxcy	04/01 Pat W. & Sam C.			
04/09 Hope Creighton	04/09 Cindy & Susan	04/09 Sandra Overlock	04/09 Merle V. & Betsy V.			
04/16 Merle Vanner	04/16 January & Clinton	04/16 Marcia Cifaldo	04/16 Walter & Linda K.			
04/23 Wes Ames	04/23 David & Robin	04/23 Jeff Creighton	04/23 Bob & Vicki Barrett			
04/30 Niva Jean Poland	04/30 Cindy & Susan	04/30 Irene Maxcy	04/30 Clint & Kathy L.			