

DECEMBER 2025

THE CORNERSTONE

Pastors Point of View

As December unfolds, we enter a sacred season filled with anticipation, joy, and reflection. The lights that adorn our homes and streets remind us of the Light of the world who came to dispel darkness and bring hope to all. Advent invites us to prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew—celebrating His birth and looking forward to His promised return.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Dec. 1 - Monday 10:00am

Ladies Circle Meeting

Dec. 3 - Wednesday 1:00PM

Mission Meeting

Dec. 11 - Thursday 6:30pm

Trustee Meeting

Dec. 14 - Sunday 11:30am

Deacon Meeting

Dec. 18 - Thursday 6:30pm

Church Council

Dec. 27 - 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.*



In Isaiah 9:6, we are reminded of the gift we celebrate: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This season calls us to embrace the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus brings into our lives and the world.

December is a time to slow down amid the busyness, making space for prayer, worship, and acts of kindness. As we gather with family, friends, and our church community, may we reflect the light of Christ in all we do—sharing His love with those in need, offering forgiveness, and extending grace.

Let us also remember those for whom this season may be difficult. May our church be a place of comfort, encouragement, and welcome, shining as a beacon of God's steadfast love.

As we celebrate the miracle of Christmas, may the hope of Christ fill your heart and home with peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Advent and Christmas season.

In Christ's love,
Rev. January Peavey



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
 Gloria Britto
 Lee Houghton
 Muriel Knutson
 Peggy Libby
 Stuart Mank
 Steve Davis
 Nola Studley
 Evelyn Anderson
 Walter Pendleton
 George Creighton
 Eric Overlock

Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
 Brent Lawson by Melody S.
 Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.
 Rodney and Myra Brooks
 Lorraine Strout by Linda K.
 Nathan Lanphier by Clint L.
 Becky Tipp by Carole S.
 Dick Hooey by Brenda K
 Ether Baldwin
 Fanny Faye Davis
 Ava Lash (12)
 Linda Winstead by Pat W.

This Prayer List aims to encourage you to hold these beloved individuals in your thoughts and prayers during the week. If you wish to add someone to this list, please consult with them first to obtain their consent before moving forward. (We acknowledge that this may not always be possible.) If your loved one has received the healing grace of God, please let us know so we can take them off the prayer list.

December Birthdays

1 John Barnstein
 1 Kathy Lanphier
 4 Debbie Collemer
 8 Susie Overlock
 12 Julie Lent-Mercier
 13 Patty Overlock
 16 Diana Dare
 19 Hope Creighton
 29 Muriel Fogg
 23 James Lent
 23 January Peavey
 24 Bob Augustine
 25 Jesus Christ

December Anniversaries

12 Clinton & Kathy Lanphier
 17 Leland & Valerie Boggs
 20 Eric & Patty Overlock
 31 Sterling & Carolyn Robinson

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

FILL THE BARREL



Suggested Donations:

Baked Beans
 Canned meats
 Canned Raviolis, etc.
 Please check expiration dates.

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

It's Nominating Season Again!



Nominating Committee

A Grateful Acknowledgment to the nominating committee:

- Jeff Creighton, Trustee
- Bette Davis, Deacon
- Clint Lanphier, Member at Large
- Eric Overlock
- Mark Waltz

If you are approached to join a board or committee, please take the offer to heart. Consider the honor and privilege of serving as a steward in this capacity.



Chair Yoga classes suspended
 until January 5, 2026.

The tithing envelopes are in: They will be on the table as you enter the Sanctuary. Please fill in the benevolence or on your check if you wish to donate part of your offering to missions, Sunday school, maintenance, etc. I still have several boxes left. If you wish to use them, see me on Sunday or Monday.
 ~Pat Weaver



DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THESE DATES.....

- **THE MIDCOAST BRASS QUINTET SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 4 AT 6:30PM.** has been **POSTPONED** to a later date to be determined.
 - **SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 - 1 to 3pm** - Kids Christmas Shopping Spree. Open to all Warren kids ages toddler to 12 are welcome to come and pick out a new Christmas gift for their parents and siblings. This event is possible through your generous donations. Thank you very much.
 - **THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 - 6:30pm** - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - if you are currently on a board or committee, you are encouraged to attend.
 - **FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 - 7:00PM.** The Midcoast Community Band will perform fun Holiday music at the Thomaston Baptist Church. Donations are gratefully accepted.
 - **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24 - 4:30PM.** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
-



Guess what time it is? ANNUAL MEETING TIME
JANUARY 18, 2026 FOLLOWING SUNDAY SERVICE

IT TAKES TIME TO PREPARE REPORTS, SO PLEASE PLAN AHEAD AND
GET YOUR YEAR END REPORTS INTO THE OFFICE BEFORE
THURSDAY - JANUARY 8, 2026



The SCCW Men's Group gathers on the last Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Their Advent initiative focuses on collecting items for the residents of the Breakwater Commons community.

On December 7th, guest speaker Krista Gross will deliver a mission moment at church. A list of needed items will be included in the upcoming Sunday bulletin. For more details, please reach out to Clint Lanphier.

Thanksgiving Eve

We hope everyone had a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.



On Wednesday Nov. 26th Rev. January delivered the message at the Thanksgiving eve service with the Warren Baptist Church. This tradition reflects our ongoing love and dedication to community and bonds of friendship.

The service was filled with warmth and a sense of community, drawing together members from both congregations in a heartfelt celebration of gratitude and fellowship. Rev. January's message resonated deeply, emphasizing the importance of unity and compassion, especially during the holiday season.

The evening was a beautiful reminder of the power of coming together in faith and friendship, leaving everyone with hearts full of joy and gratitude.

The article below is taken from the current Dec. 2025 NACCC Congregationalist magazine.

A Letter of Gratitude

by REV. JANUARY PEAVEY

The following letter was written by Rev. January Peavey upon her graduation from the NACCC's Lay Ministry Training Program. In a testimony to the transformative power of lay ministry and the enduring strength of Congregational fellowship, she captures the essence of what it means to pause, look back, and give thanks.

Dear NACCC Lay Ministry Training Program Committee, Instructors, and Fellow Students,

It is with a heart full of gratitude and joy that I write to you today, having graduated from the Lay Ministry Training Program (LMTP) this day. The past three years have been a transformative journey, one that has deepened my faith, enriched my theological understanding, and strengthened my commitment to God's call to service and ministry. I am profoundly thankful to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches for creating and sustaining this remarkable program, which has been a cornerstone in my spiritual and personal growth.

The LMTP has been far more than an academic endeavor; it has been a sacred space where I have encountered God's presence in new and profound ways. Through the thoughtfully designed curriculum, I have gained a deeper understanding of theology, scripture, and the practical aspects of ministry, equipping me to serve with greater confidence and compassion. The program's emphasis on both intellectual rigor and spiritual formation has provided me with tools to navigate my calling with

clarity and purpose. For this, I am immensely grateful to the NACCC for its vision and dedication to fostering lay leadership within our congregations.

To the instructors, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your wisdom, patience, and generosity of spirit. Your passion for teaching and your commitment to nurturing our growth as lay ministers have been truly inspiring. Each of you brought unique perspectives, challenging us to think critically while encouraging us to remain rooted in faith and love. Your guidance has not only shaped my understanding of ministry but has also modeled the humility and grace that I aspire to embody in my own service.

I am equally grateful to the LMTP committee members, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes made this program possible. Your dedication to organizing, refining, and supporting this initiative has created an environment where countless individuals, like myself, have been empowered to answer God's call. Your work is a testament to the NACCC's mission to strengthen Congregational churches through faithful leadership, and I am honored to have been a beneficiary of your labors.

To my fellow students, I owe a special debt of gratitude. The relationships we have forged over these three years are among the most cherished gifts of this program. Your insights, encouragement, and shared commitment to this journey have enriched my experience beyond measure. Together, we have laughed, prayed, wrestled with complex ideas, and grown in faith. These bonds will remain a source of strength and inspiration as I move forward in ministry, and I am so thankful for the community we have built together.


This program has been a significant milestone in my personal call to God's service. It has affirmed my purpose, deepened my relationship with God, and equipped me to serve others with greater intentionality. Beyond the knowledge and skills I have gained, the LMTP has instilled in me a renewed sense of hope and responsibility to contribute to the mission of the church in meaningful ways. I am excited to carry forward the lessons learned and the spirit of this program into my ministry, wherever God may lead.

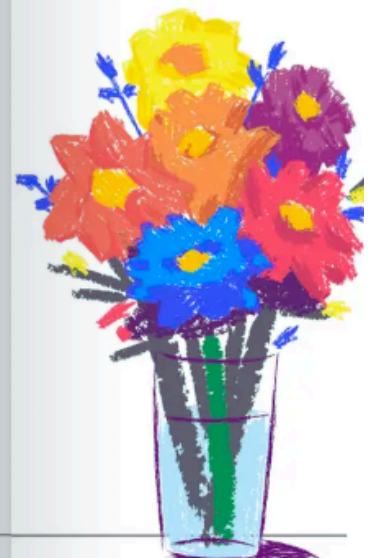
As I reflect on this journey, I am also grateful for the broader NACCC community, whose support and prayers have uplifted all of us in the LMTP. Your commitment to fostering lay ministry ensures

that our churches remain vibrant, faithful, and responsive to the needs of our world. I am proud to be part of this tradition and eager to contribute to its ongoing legacy.

Once again, thank you – to the NACCC, the LMTP committee, the instructors, and my fellow students – for this extraordinary opportunity. May God continue to bless your work, and may the Lay Ministry Training Program continue to inspire and equip others to serve with faith, love, and dedication.

With deepest gratitude,


Rev. January M. Peavey
Lay Ministry Training Program Graduate,
2025



REV. JANUARY PEAVEY is both a business owner and the interim pastor of Second Congregational Church of Warren in Maine. She is a wife, mother, and grandmother, and enjoys singing, playing volleyball, reading, and studying the Word.



Holly Berry FAIR



Thank you

EVERYONE





Advent Offering for The Landing Place

The Mission Board has selected The Landing Place, the youth programming division of Homeworthy, to receive our Advent offering. Additionally, we will be gathering items for baskets that will be placed beneath our Christmas tree. We are in need of the following items:

- Art supplies: markers, paints, pads of paper, easels
- Hygiene items: deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, face wash, acne treatment, toothbrushes, and toothpaste
- Cleaning supplies: all-purpose spray and wipes
- Bike locks

About The Landing Place

Opened in 2017, The Landing Place serves as a welcoming, non-judgmental, and dependable safe haven for middle and high school students. Here, they can participate in various activities, connect with friends, unwind, learn new skills, receive compassionate mentorship from trained staff, and access free services. These services include:

- Fun activities
- Community-based resources
- Healthy snacks and warm suppers
- Shower and laundry facilities
- Computers
- Clothing and blankets
- Personal hygiene products and other essential supplies

Together, we can help break the cycle of generational trauma that often leads to substance abuse, housing instability, and conflict.

Please join us in filling the Christmas baskets under our tree with HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE for these often-overlooked youth!

Heartfelt Gratitude

We extend our sincere appreciation to the deacons for their wonderful work in decorating the Sanctuary this holiday season. A special thank you goes to Kathy Lanphier and Gayle White for gathering orders for the lovely Poinsettias. And thank you to those who made a purchase. We truly value the time and effort that has gone into this. Thank you!



This beautiful Nativity set in the Sanctuary was donated by the family of Mary Gammon in her honor. Mary always wanted a nativity set to be on display at the church. Thank you to the Gammon family. Mary is deeply missed and she would have loved seeing this.





On November 30th, the Caring & Sharing Sisters gathered for their year-end holiday luncheon at the Samoset Resort. It was a fun time gathering together, and the food was absolutely delicious. Our very own Addy Ruggieri served as our gracious hostess. Not pictured; Rev. January, Valerie, Diana, Niva, and Tina. We are currently enjoying a well-deserved winter break, with our meetings resuming in March 2026. However, we are always here for you—just reach out if a need arises.

Happy holiday season from C&S to everyone.

Merry Christmas
2025

Wishing Everyone a Joyous, Blessed and Merry Christmas!

As we wrap up another year, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks for all the support and contributions to our “Cornerstone” throughout the past year. Your dedication and enthusiasm in promoting SCCW and helping us share our message truly means a lot.

We faced numerous changes and challenges this past year and lost many cherished friends; however, through God's grace, we have grown stronger in our relationships and faith.

As we look forward to the promising year of 2026, let us embrace the spirit of blessings, gratitude, and a shared determination to make the upcoming year our best yet—personally, professionally, and spiritually.

May God bless you all with good health and happiness.

With love and appreciation,
Carolyn Robinson
SCCW Office Administrator



Happy New Year
2026



Bottle Redemption benefits the CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

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

Please empty your bags directly into the bin.

Also please empty the bottles before putting them into bags and be sure the bags you bring in do not have holes. Leaky bags are no fun!

To Volunteer at the Children's Clothing Exchange, contact CCE Director - Susan Lombardo 207-701-7622

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, you automatically become part of the church council, and your attendance at the bi-monthly church council meetings is expected and highly encouraged.

Don't forget....

To conserve energy, if you turn the heat UP in any rooms be sure to turn it back DOWN to 58deg.



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.



For the most current information, please visit our website, where you will find all the details you need. Explore our pages to learn about our history, listen to a Sunday service, and discover our various boards and committees. We invite you to visit us at www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org.



DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
11/02/25	47	\$2456.00	\$466.00
11/09/25	60	2065.00	136.00
11/16/25	45	577.00	N/A
11/23/25	50	798.00	N/A
11/30/25	54	1742.00	78.00

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

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.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 208.273.2338

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10am Ladies Circle	2 9-11am Table Talk	3 1:00pm Missions	4	5	6 1-3pm Kids Christmas shopping spree
7 10:00am Service MM-Breakwater Com	8	9 9-11am Table Talk	10	11 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	12	13
14 10:00am Service Barbara Bibro 11:30 Deacon Meeting	15	16 9-11am Table Talk	17	18 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	19	20 Hall Rented/Lents
21 10:00am Service	22	23 9-11am Table Talk	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4:30PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 9:am Men's group meeting
28 10:00am Service Barbara Bibro	29	30 9-11am Table Talk	31 NY Eve	1 2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
12/07 Donna Lewis 12/14 Cindy Bland 12/21 Melody Sainio 12/28 Merle Vanner	12/07 Becky/Carolyn 12/14 Steve/Betty 12/21 Susan/Michelle 12/28 Kathleen/Carolyn	12/07 Sandra Overlock 12/14 Marcia Cifaldo 12/21 Sterling Robinson 12/28 Jeff Creighton	12/07 Freide / Nola 12/14 Kathleen / Carolyn 12/21 Monique / Jack 12/28 Joe / Marcia	12/07 Men's Group 12/14 Ladies Group 12/21 Congregation 12/28 Caring/Sharing		

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 / Sundays till 2PM

Fill in Musician

Video Gentle Chair Yoga – Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-9:00am
Classes suspended until January 5, 2026