



THE CORNERSTONE SEPTEMBER - 2023

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren
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Summer Begins To Fade ~ *Catherine Pulsifer*

As summer's haze begins to fade away,
September emerges in subtle grace.
Milder temperatures, a tranquil sway,
Unveiling autumn's splendor in each space
Cool evenings whisper secrets through the night,
With crispness tingling gently in the air.
In transition, seasons change with might,
Serious tones remind us life is fair.



I was at the hospital visiting, and walked out with a very nice young woman, and I remarked on what a beautiful day it was. She said, "Yes, it is but I feel a little bit of fall in the air." And I said, "Yes! Fall is a beautiful time of year!" She laughed and agreed, but then said she was a teacher, and this kind of day just reminded her that she would have to go back to work soon. September always feels like the beginning to me, and not toward the end of the year. This is most likely because that's when school starts. For at least 12 years of our lives, that is the cycle that we live in. When the autumn leaves come out, we start school. It's a new beginning. Everyone is excited to come together after a long summer of being apart. The teachers are enthusiastic and ready to meet their new students. A graduation, whether high school or college, is called commencement. While graduating students look at this as an ending of school and a great day to celebrate being done with all that work, commencement means the beginning. Because even though we feel like it's an ending, we really are beginning the next stage of our lives.

In the Jewish calendar, the New Year begins not in January, but in September. It is Rosh Hashanah and celebrates the harvest, which is the beginning of the season of the produce of the land.

The Christian liturgical calendar begins not in January, but on the first day of Advent. This is sometimes December and sometimes November.

So, whether September feels like a beginning to you, or edging toward the end of the year, let us celebrate the beauty of the month! Blue skies, bright sun, and cool nights - all gifts from God! In the cycle of life, God's Creation, **every ending is just the beginning of something new.**

*Who has controlled history since the **beginning**? I, the Lord, am the one. I was here at the **beginning**, and I will be here when all things are finished."* Isaiah 41:4

Pastor Bette

UPCOMING EVENTS HERE & THERE

September 2 – Labor Day Monday – noon to 3:00pm – Pen Bay Ministries Community & Recovery Labor Day Hot Dog BBQ – Live music – Bring a Chair – Donations accepted.

September 9 thru 16 – Rev. Bette will be on vacation. Traveling mercies for her. If there are any spiritual needs you are welcome to see a Deacon.

September 10 – Sunday services – Pastoral student January Peavey will be in the pulpit in Rev. Bette's absence.

September 14 – 5:30pm Last public supper of the season.

September 3 – Saturday – 4:00pm – Gospel Quartet Plus – Broad Cove Church, 89 Pleasant Road – Cushing – refreshments to follow

September 24 – Sunday – 10am service of Baptism and Membership

WE ARE GROWING!! On Sunday, September 24, Second Congregational Church of Warren will be taking in new members! We are very blessed to have people attending our church, becoming involved, and taking part in our community/church family. They were asked if they would like to deepen their commitment, and they agreed! If you are interested in becoming a member, there is still time and room for you! See Pastor Bette, or one of the deacons, if so. Be sure to join us on this joyous occasion.

September 30 – Saturday – 8:30am to 1:00pm - Fall Meeting of the CCC of Maine at the First Congregational Church of Machiasport – 378 Port Road (Route 92) Schedule of events including suggested accommodations available in the office.



Sept. 4 – Karen Carpenter
Sept. 5 – Valerie Miller
Sept. 7 – Regina Gamage
Sept. 10 – Gayle White
Sept. 10 – Tammy Hagin
Sept. 14 – Janice Overlock
Sept. 15 – Sheila Barnstein
Sept. 18 – Evelyn Anderson
Sept. 20 – Jeff Creighton
Sept. 29 – Richard Maxcy



Sept. 9 – David & Marilyn Chase

ENJOY YOUR 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 before having them added to the player list. *(In some instances, we know that this may not be possible).*

GOD'S PRAYERS

Arlene by Mark & Jane W.
Ray Sleeper by Patty Overlock
Eric Overlock
Rebecca by Rev. Bette
Vinny Macari by Robin Q.
Elizabeth Rodi by Robin Q.
Wayne Quinn by Robin Q.
Gabriel Johnson (7) by Robin Q.
Heidi White by Janice O.
David Chase

Bill Meservey by Patty Overlock
Sheila A. by Tina B.
Jane Sprowl
Nathaniel Parkinson by Linda L
Nico (Age 13) by Rev. Bette
Stuart Mank
Loraine Strout by Linda K.
Jane Waltz
Joel Kinney by Janice O.

E. Frank Johnson by Gayle W.
Bob Carpenter
Jackie Gushee by Tina B.
Pat Kurr by Hope C.
Mason (8) by Sonja W.
Nathan Lanphier
Kristi Braun by Nancy Braun
Rev. Wayne Sawyer
Carolyn Perkins– Pat's sister



Thanks
and
Gratitude

It was with mutual thanks and gratitude that we celebrated Dave and Peggy Stuart on August 13th. They spent their summer with us as Dave mentored with Rev. Bette. They departed back to Connecticut and back to his studies at Yale Divinity School. They will be missed but they will be back and we will look forward to seeing them again. Dave sent a lovely thank you note (on next page) that was also read at service on Sunday August 20th.

May they be blessed in their faith journey.

Dear SCCW Family,

Bette has given me a wonderful opportunity [this Sunday](#) to preach at the Bunker Hill Baptist Church in Jefferson. That is mostly a good thing! But it's bad because Peggy and I need to leave [tomorrow](#) and we won't be able to say goodbye in person to you -- our beloved summer church family. Hopefully, we'll be back to worship with you in the fall and/or winter, but with school and joining the clergy staff at my home church this fall, our schedule is unclear. In the meantime, I want to express my immense gratitude for your welcome, your good humor and warm embrace this summer.



I wasn't sure how this summer would go. We knew we wanted to be in Maine and we love, love, love Bette. But, this New York City lawyer turned seminarian stepping into a tight-knit community of stoic Mainers made me a bit nervous. And, yet – as Bette said in her awesome sermon last week – when we stop worrying about how things “might” go and allow ourselves to be led by God, somehow, we muddle through. And, muddle through I did ... with your help (and, most certainly, by yielding to God's call).

You've taught me a few things this summer and I want to share them with you. First, you've taught me that God works most profoundly through communities of individuals. I've seen it before, but you have shown me deeply and in new ways how a community of love, faith and support shares its joys and its struggles. This community is so much stronger than any of its individual members. Second, you've shown me how we resonate best with each other when we act through what only God gives us – love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and other ways in which we serve God's creation together. Finally, you taught me that when two arrows painted on the parking lot pavement are pointing at each other, it means you can choose which way to go (who knew?)!

I spent some quiet time last week reading slowly each of your thoughtful handwritten notes of support and appreciation, which Carolyn handed me the day that you had the awesome cake in the Upper Room. Please know that each one meant the world to me. Never underestimate the impact of writing a note of thanks or support. You – collectively and individually – have demonstrated what cannot be learned in the divinity school classroom. You are a beautiful faith community led by a profoundly insightful and loving minister and mentor. You have modeled for me what a true Christian church is. I hope to be able to serve you in some capacity in the future and I am forever grateful for your love and support. I love you.

Yours in Christ,
Dave Stuart



Musical News

The Choir and Bell Choir will be gearing up for this year of worship during our services at 2nd Congregational. **Choir practices are on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30.** We are looking for more voices to join us. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses would be awesome. Please pray for our musical groups. That we may bring beautiful music to our service and heartfelt worship to our congregation. I am so thankful for the commitment made by our members that have been dedicated to being a part of service for many years and your support at this church.

Bells will be practicing! And the news is: There will be a beginning and review class of Bell Basics on **Wednesdays starting on September 13.**

Call Beverly at 207-432-4497. If you know of someone that would be interested in our groups, please let me know and pass on the information. Come join in the fun.

September 13, 20, 27, October 6

10:00- 11:00. Bell Basics

11:00 -12:00 Upper Room Ensemble

You are invited to the GQ Plus concert on Saturday September 23 at 4:00pm at the Broad Cove Church in Cushing. There will be refreshments to follow the program.

Happy Fall!

~Beverly



We are excited to share that plans are under way for AIO's 2nd annual **ArtFeeds, Artists in Action Against Food Insecurity** event in partnership with the community's vibrant artists, **Page Gallery**, and the **Maine State Correctional Facility**.

This year we will have **40** well-known local artists, including **Alan Magee, Eric Hopkins, Megan Brady, Colin Page, Greta Van Campen, and Anneli Skaar**. Each artist will create their own bowl or work with a wooden bowl carved and donated by residents of the Maine State Correctional Facility's woodworking program.

Save the Date!

An exhibition of participating artist bowls will be on display at Page Gallery, **September 10-16**, culminating with a reception and an auction on **September 16**. All funds raised will support AIO's programs. Planning is underway so keep an eye out for more details.

2 victims spared in The Exodus Road's first organ trafficking case By Mary Nikkel

August 10, 2023 (Submitted by Patricia Weaver)

A man and a woman in the Philippines have been spared from having their kidneys trafficked! Two women who planned to sell and profit from the victims' organs have been arrested.

This case came to The Exodus Road because of a survivor's courage. A local media organization in the Philippines created a documentary about organ trafficking. In the production process, a survivor whose organ was illegally taken and sold shared information about an illicit organ trafficking business. The media outlet contacted authorities, who reached out to The Exodus Road and asked for support on the case.

The perpetrators were promising vulnerable people that if they gave up kidneys, they would receive significant payment. But after the operation to remove the organs was complete, the traffickers would sell the kidneys and keep the money. When the victims tried to claim the payment they'd been promised, the traffickers would threaten them into silence.

The Exodus Road's Philippines team helped law enforcement plan the mission and accompanied them to the clinic for logistical support. During the intervention at the hospital, law enforcement interrupted the exploitation of a man and a woman who had been tricked into surrendering their kidneys before the surgeries took place. The two woman traffickers were arrested.

This was The Exodus Road's first direct involvement in an organ trafficking case. Although this is not a common form of trafficking, organ trafficking does happen, and your support is allowing us to expand into bringing justice to this dark industry. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- **Caring/Sharing Sisters**
Tues. Sept. 5th 6:30pm
- **Missions Meeting**
Wed. Sept. 6th 12noon
- **Deacons Meeting**
Wed. Sept. 6th 6:30pm
- **Ladies Circle Meeting**
Mon. Sept. 11th 10:00 am

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.



Thanks to everyone who has been bringing in non-perishables for the food pantry. It is very much appreciated. We sincerely hope you continue to keep the food barrel in the church foyer full. Bread for the Journey is open to all Warren residents on Thursdays from 9 to 11am.

Current needs are: Egg noodles, Pasta, Jelly or Jam, Cranberry Sauce - They are stocking for the holidays.

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

Visited our website recently?

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



Bottle redemption to benefit
THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Returnable box is in the downstairs Fellowship room



On-Line giving in now available.

[Click this link.](#)

THANK YOU
for your continued support.



Date	Attendance	Offering	Missions
08/06	58	\$2363.00	\$307.00
08/13	63	1616.40	155.00
08/20	56	1069.00	68.00
08/27	61	1359.62	581.00

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
					1	2	
3 10am Service CH: The Men's Group	4 Labor Day	5 9-11am Coffee Chat 6:30pm Caring/Sharing 6:30pm AA Meeting	6 Rev. Bette away 12p Mission Mtg 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Deacons Mtg	7 Rev. Bette away 9-11am CCE	8 Rev. Bette away	9 Rev. Bette away	
10 10am Service Rev. Bette away/ January intern CH: Ladies Circle	11 Rev Bette away Patriots Day 10am Ladies Circle	12 Rev. Bette away 9-11am Coffee Chat 6:30pm AA Meeting	13 Rev. Bette away 10:45am Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14 Rev Bette away 9-11am CCE 5:30pm Church Supper 6:30pm Trustee Mtg	15 Rev. Bette away	16 Rev. Bette returns 9-11am CCE	
17 10am Service CH: Congregation	18	19 9-11am Coffee Chat 6:30pm AA Meeting	20 10:45am Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9-11am CCE	22 First day of FALL	23	
24 10am Service Baptism & Membership Children Day CH: Caring/Sharing	25	26 9-11am Coffee Chat 6:30pm AA Meeting	27 10:45am Bell Practice 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 9-11am CCE	29 National Coffee Day	30 CCCME Fall Meeting @ Machias Me 9:00am Men's Group	
LITURGIST		DEACONS		TRUSTEES		GREETERS	
09/03 Weston Ames	09/03 January/Robin CP; Gayle/Susan	09/03 Marcia Cifaldo	09/03 Clint & Kathy Lanphier	09/10 Marcia Cifaldo	09/10 Jeff Creighton	09/10 Marcia Cifaldo & Susan Lombardo	
09/10 Donna Lewis	09/10 Cindy & Karen	09/10 Irene Maxy	09/17 Irene Maxy	09/17 Irene Maxy	09/17 Irene Maxy	09/17 Walter & Linda Kaler	
09/17 Hope Creighton	09/17 Gayle & Susan	09/24 January & Cindy	08/24 Sandra Overlock	08/24 Sandra Overlock	08/24 Sandra Overlock	09/24 Walter P. & Patty O.	
09/24 Robin Quinn							

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
CH: Denotes Coffee Hour