



P.O. BOX 206 - 252 MAIN ST. - WARREN, ME. 04864 - (207) 273-2338

# THE CORNERSTONE

## SEPTEMBER 2026



Pastor Heidi Grueser

### SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Sept 2 - Wednesday 1PM

MISSIONS MEETING

Sept 4 - Friday 10AM

CARING/SHARING MEETING

Sept 13 - Sunday 11AM

DEACONS MEETING

Sept 14 - Monday 10AM

LADIES CIRCLE Meeting

Sept 17 - Thursday 6:30PM

TRUSTEE MEETING

Sept 26 - 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.*



### ♥ HEIDI'S HEART

WOW, can it really be September? YES! But, allow me to reflect on the most precious moment of my life (besides the adoption of my children).

August...

I want to thank you from the tips of my toes to the top of my head. I am full of gratitude towards you, my family and my God. On August 16th at 3:00 P.M. I made a vow to God and to you to give my heart and life to serve & honor our Holy Father and you. As the Ecumenical Clergy laid their strong hands upon my shoulders I felt the weight. As they prayed collectively my whole soul flew to the throne room of heaven where I too bowed. I am not sure I can find the words to describe that moment...but one word I can use is...Holy. When I opened my eyes, I was looking directly towards your eyes and heart. I felt, saw and heard the seal of Heaven stamped upon us. I will give you my all, just as I give our Father my all in service, love, prayer and loyalty.

Thank you for all of your hard work preparing meals and desserts, cleaning, decorating (all Lady Circles & the Men's Fellowship). Thank you also for the music (Beverly & Jim Pacheco & my dearest friend, Lori D'Orio) photography (Hope Creighton), and to Carolyn who worked tirelessly beside me orchestrating the Installation service. Life lived together is truly awe inspiring. I am beyond honored and feel privileged to now become united with you as a "we."

All my Love,  
Pastor Heidi

### **Tuesday morning Bible Study--**

We will begin this study on September 22, 2026

(Please note: this date is different than the original study date).

I am so thrilled to join you on a new adventure of study--  
Biblical Prophecy and Today's World Events. We will cover so many  
different topics within this wide genre of study.



I will be using the book, "What Happens Next: A Traveler's Guide Through The End Of This Age" by Max Lucado. Lucado gives a gentle, clear and concise teaching on End Time Biblical Prophecies. You can purchase this book on Amazon, if you choose: Kindle \$14.99, Hard cover \$ 14.57 & Paperback \$17.65.

### **Beginning September 20, 2026 11:30 A.M.**

Walk Where Jesus' Walked Study. Each month through April 2027 we will study the land of Israel and what makes it the apple of God's eye. September 20th will be a question and answer time about our upcoming May 3-12, 2027 trip.

I have been invited on a VIP all expenses paid trip to Israel (November 2-10) by Friendship Tours to travel with 14 other pastors walking the exact itinerary we will journey in May 2027. The only stipulation was that I cover the flight cost which the church & different ministries have agreed to cover. THANK YOU SO MUCH! This journey will be videoed and photographed to document and answer many of your questions.

A payment of \$300 is required to secure your place on this tour. I'd like to take 32 people which fills a bus and makes for a wonderful tour family. Full payment is due December 1, 2026. I have placed more brochures in the narthex and Carolyn and I have them available via email if so desired.

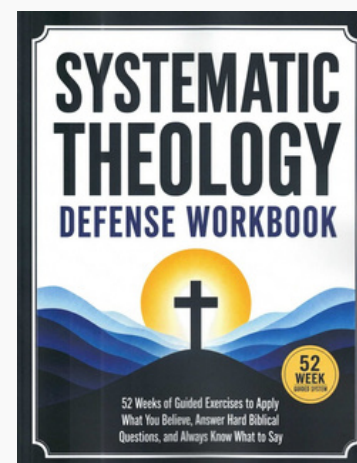
The study books for this tour may be found on Amazon and the optional novels are The Kings Chronicles by Lynn Austin.

### **Adult Sunday School will begin October 4, 2026**

9:15-9:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

I will teach ALL about the Bible and Why Christians believe what we believe! I will be using the book: "Systematic Theology Defense Workbook" from Cornerstone Press.

"Most Christians were never taught how to defend what they believe. They were handed a faith, shown where to sit on Sunday, and trusted to figure out the rest. But the world does not wait for readiness. It asks hard questions at inconvenient moments, and it rarely asks gently."



More than answering questions of faith for those around you, I want you to know for yourself the answers to your faith. I am really looking forward to this class...it has no end date because these lessons will take time to unravel and I want to teach you everything I know as well as learn together.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND HAPPENINGS

- Sept. 2 - Chair Yoga and Exercise resumes 8:30am
- Sept. 6 - Labor Day - pause and honor all workers
- Sept. 11 - Never forget
- Sept. 20 - 11:30am - first Israel trip informational meeting w/Heidi
- Sept. 22 - 11am after coffee chat - **NEW BIBLE STUDY -**

### The Bible and Prophetic Times



## LOOK UP!

Have you noticed something different overhead? We have a brand-new roof! Heartfelt thanks to our Trustees and everyone who helped make this possible. It gives one a newfound respect for roofers—especially the hardworking Tri-State Roofers, who truly put their lives on the line. They walked our roof like it was solid ground. Amazing to witness.

## LOOK IN!

Have you peeked into the Pastor's office lately? Despite a few hiccups with the carpeting, Pastor Heidi's office came together beautifully—thanks to so many generous hands pitching in, just in time for her big day and a visit from her family. A special thank you to Cayouette Flooring. Such profound generosity...and great people!



## Summer Fun



The Hobden and Grueser kids sure had a fun summer. Camping, fairs and beaches, all with smiling faces.



Pastor Heidi's Maine Street Bible Class in the Woolen Mill Park was fun and enlightening for the kids. Some new ideas are in the works, stay tuned.





## PRAYER REQUESTS



This Prayer List is designed to inspire you to keep these cherished individuals in your thoughts and prayers throughout the week. If you would like to add someone to this list, please seek their permission before proceeding. (We understand that this may not always be feasible.) If your loved one has experienced the healing grace of God, kindly inform us so we can remove them from the prayer list.

*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  
 Muriel Knutson  
 Nola Studley  
 Janette Small  
 Margaret Damewood  
 Sandra Gammon  
 Carole Starr

Romeo Jackson by Melody S.  
 Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.  
 Lorraine Strout by Walter K.  
 Becky Tipp by Carole S.  
 Baby Anthony (Field)  
 Steve Davis  
 Joani Mitchell by Hope C.  
 Stuart Mank



## IN LOVING Memory

**Condolences to Jeff Creighton and Family  
 for the loss of his sister, Laurie Allen**

**Margaret "Peggy" Lillian (Feyler) Libby**.....On August 16th we lost a dear friend. Peggy was a devoted member of SCCW for 30 years. She was also a long time member of the Ladies Circle, always readily available with a helping hand. She will be missed by all those who loved her. Prayers for comfort to her family. May she rest in peace.



**Robert "Bob" Jordan** passed away on August 27, 2026. Bob and his late wife Harlean, who passed in July 2025, were dedicated members of SCCW since 1990, they are now together again. After their move to Augusta they continued once a month to come back 'home' to visit their Warren church family. Relatives and friends may visit on **Tuesday, Sept. 8, from 2 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m., at Plummer Funeral Home, 16 Pleasant St., Augusta**, where members of the Masons are asked to meet at 5:45 p.m. to prepare for the Masonic Funeral Service.

Burial and committal prayers with military honors will be held **Wednesday, September 9, at 2 p.m.**, at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 163 Mt. Vernon Rd., Augusta. The family requests that donations in Bob's memory be made to: Honor Flight Maine, PO Box 469, Augusta, ME, 04332 or online at [honorflightmaine.org](http://honorflightmaine.org). Bob, may you now rest peacefully with your loving wife.



**Fanny Faye Davis**, friend and neighbor, passed away on June 21st after a year long struggle with cancer. Ann Gonzalez has extended an invitation to all to join her in remembering the life for her dear friend. Throughout her illness she was cared for, held, and lovingly supported by family and friends, both near and afar. A memorial service will be held Sept. 5 at 2 pm at the Alcyon Spiritual Center, Seal Cove, ME.

A celebration of her life will be on **Sept. 6 at 4 PM** at the Saint George Pizza House, Warren, ME. The same place that once housed the Saint George River Cafe, a gathering place that Fanny Faye dreamed into being in 2015. There will be food, music and dancing. All are welcome.



# THE INSTALLATION OF PASTOR HEIDI RENÉ GRUESER

On August 19, 2026 Pastor Heidi Grueser was officially accepted into our family. With the help of the CCCMe ministers and guests, the ceremony was beautiful.



Meeting the Council for the first time.



*Pastor Heidi René Grueser*



Awaiting the Council with Beverly at the Organ



Rev. Doug Drown "Covenant of Installation"



The Clergy "Laying on of the Hands".



Rev. Fred Fortier, CCCME Moderator  
"Prayer of Installation"



CCCME: Rev. Fred Fortier, Rev. Mike Carter, (Guest) Rev. Dave Stuart, Rev. Peter Stickney, Rev. Irv Gammon, Rev. Vance Jordan, Rev. Carl Schriber, (Guest) Rev. Andy Stinson, Rev. Doug Drown, Pastor Heidi, not pictured Rev. Mike Glidden.



Joe Cifaldo, Moderator  
"Charge to the Congregation"



Lori Adams D'iorio  
Pastor Heidi's best friend sang beautifully.



Rev. Andrew Stinson  
Delivering the Sermon and Benediction





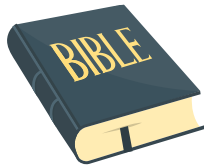
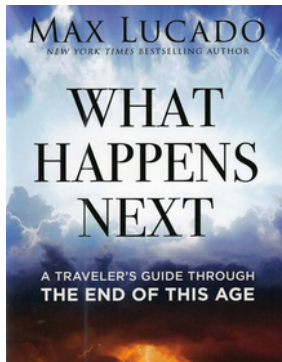
# AN OFFICIAL WELCOME PASTOR HEIDI RENÉ GRUESER



Pastor's family - Brother Ted Grueser and best friends Lori and Cindee



Photo credits: Hope Creighton



Tuesday, September 22, 11:00 a.m.  
Stay grounded in God's Word.  
Join Pastor Heidi for an  
in-depth Bible study.



Beginning Sunday, October 4, 9:15 a.m.  
"Everything You've Always Wanted to  
Know & More" begins 9:15-9:45 a.m.  
All are welcome.



## Back to School



Koral — Zoe — Gracie K. — Jack  
Sunday, August 23rd Greeters

*Dear God,  
As we send our children back to  
school, we pray for Your protection  
and guidance. Keep them safe from  
harm, both physically and  
emotionally. Help them to find friends  
who will support and encourage them.  
Give them wisdom as they face  
challenging situations. And help them  
to always remember that You are with  
them, no matter what.*



In an attempt to livestream our Sunday services on YouTube, we learned that we need 50 subscribers before we can go live. Please visit **YouTube.com** and search for Second Congregational Church of Warren. When you find our page, click the black **Subscribe** button. You may need to create a login and password. If you need help, please contact Carolyn in the church office. Help us reach 50 subscribers so we can share our Sunday services with more people in the community. You can also watch our Sunday service on our Facebook page, but since not everyone has Facebook, we thought it would be a good idea to livestream on YouTube as well.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS — ANNIVERSARIES

4 Karen Carpenter  
5 Valerie Miller  
7 Regina Gamage  
10 Gayle White  
10 Tammy Hagin  
11 Louise Cornforth  
14 Janice Overlock  
20 Koral Grueser  
20 Jeff Creighton  
29 Richard Maxcy

15 - Zach & Monique Hobden

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

## FILL THE BARREL

September Suggested Donations:

Peanut butter  
Grape jelly  
Canned veggies  
Canned/dry pet food



**BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY FOOD PANTRY  
ALSO ACCEPTS MONETARY DONATIONS.  
OUR BARREL HAS BEEN EMPTY LATELY;  
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION.**



Thank you 

Thank you to the congregation, the Trustees, and everyone who helped purchase a new professional printer for the church office. It should arrive soon. Our bulletins, newsletters, posters, and other printed materials are the face of our church and help show visitors who we are. A good printer will help make clear, and welcoming materials. Thank you again to everyone who made this possible!



Labor Day 2026 Monday, September 7. This holiday pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is observed each year on the first Monday of September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans and is celebrated with parties, cookouts, parades and athletic events. Be safe and remember and celebrate those who help make life more enjoyable.



Patriot Day 2026 is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11. Never shall we forget.



## **I S R A E L   T R I P -   M A Y   3 - 1 2 ,   2 0 2 7**

For those interested in learning about the Israel trip, we will be meeting several times to be educated on what to expect on this memorable trip.

Trip informational meetings will be on Sundays @ 11:30am on the dates listed to the right.

Reminders and announcements will be sent out. All are welcome.

- September 20, 2026
- October 25, 2026
- November 29, 2026
- December 20, 2026
- January 24, 2027
- February 28, 2027
- March 28, 2027
- April 4, 2027
- April 25, 2027



## BOTTLE DRIVE

### FUNDRAISING



Bottle Redemption benefits the  
**CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE**  
Returnable bin is in the downstairs  
Fellowship room. We thank you  
kindly for your donations.

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

### Don't forget....

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

### 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.



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.

### SCCW CONTACT INFO:

#### PASTOR HEIDI GRUESER: EMAIL

gheidigrueser@gmail.com

#### OFFICE ADMIN: Carolyn Robinson

office.sccw@gmail.com

#### TREASURER: Patricia Weaver

treasurer.sccw1@gmail.com

#### TRUSTEE CHAIR: Jeff Creighton

jeffcreighton@gmail.com

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

### Sunday Hospitality

First Sunday - Men's Group

Second Sunday - Ladies Circle

Third Sunday - The Congregation

Fourth Sunday - Caring and Sharing Sisters

Fifth Sunday (if applicable) - The Congregation



### ALL SEATED YOGA and EXERCISE

Monday - Wednesday - Friday - 8:30 to 9:00-am  
Stretch, strength and flexibility. All welcome!

Free Video Class



| DATE     | ATTENDANCE | OFFERING  | MISSIONS |
|----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 08.02.26 | 49         | \$2353.00 | \$363.00 |
| 08.09.26 | 44         | 660.00    | 37.00    |
| 08.16.26 | 70         | 1102.00   | 53.00    |
| 08.23.26 | 43         | 1008.00   | 145.00   |
| 08.30.26 | 48         | 952.00    | 23.00    |

# SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

# SEPTEMBER 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                   | MONDAY                              | TUESDAY                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                   | THURSDAY                                   | FRIDAY                                            | SATURDAY                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                          |                                     | <u>1</u>                                                                  | <u>2</u><br>1:00pm Missions | <u>3</u>                                   | <u>4</u><br>10am Caring Sharing Mtg               | <u>5</u>                            |
| <u>6</u> 10am Service<br>Communion<br>Music: Barbara Bibro                               | <u>7</u><br>LABOR DAY               | <u>8</u><br>9-11am Table Talk                                             | <u>9</u>                    | <u>10</u> 9-11am CCE<br>4:00pm Trustee Mtg | <u>11</u><br>Patriot Day<br>Honoring 9/11 victims | <u>12</u>                           |
| <u>13</u> 10am Service<br>Grandparents Day<br>Deacon Mtg 11:15am<br>Music: Barbara Bibro | <u>14</u><br>10am Ladies Circle Mtg | <u>15</u><br>9-11am Table Talk                                            | <u>16</u>                   | <u>17</u> 9-11am CCE                       | <u>18</u>                                         | <u>19</u>                           |
| <u>20</u> 10am Service<br>Israel info mtg 11:30<br>Music: Lizzie                         | <u>21</u>                           | <u>22</u><br>9-11am Table Talk<br>11am Bible Study<br>"What Happens Next" | <u>23</u>                   | <u>24</u> 9-11am CCE                       | <u>25</u>                                         | <u>26</u><br>Men's Group Mtg        |
| <u>27</u> 10am Service<br>Music: Christine Tofani                                        | <u>28</u>                           | <u>29</u><br>9-11am Table Talk<br>11am Bible Study<br>"What Happens Next" | <u>30</u>                   | <u>1</u> OCTOBER<br>9-11am CCE             | <u>2</u><br>10am Caring Sharing Mtg               | <u>3</u><br>AA Hall rental<br>9-2pm |
| LITURGIST                                                                                | DEACONS                             | TRUSTEES                                                                  | GREETERS                    | HOSPITALITY                                |                                                   |                                     |
| 09/06 Aleta Mank                                                                         | 09/06 Karen/Carolyn                 | 09/06 Sandra Overlock                                                     | 09/06 Cindy/Jeremy          | 09/06 Men's Group                          |                                                   |                                     |
| 09/13 Gayle White                                                                        | 09/13 Paul / Susan                  | 09/13 Marcia Cifaldo                                                      | 09/13 Melody/Aleta          | 09/13 Ladies Circle                        |                                                   |                                     |
| 09/20 Cindy Bland                                                                        | 09/20 Zach / Karen                  | 09/20 Sterling Robinson                                                   | 09/20 Joe/Marcia            | 09/20 Congregation                         |                                                   |                                     |
| 09/27 Melody Sainio                                                                      | 09/27 Carolyn / Ann                 | 09/27 Jeff Creighton                                                      | 09/27 The Kids              | 09/27 Caring/Sharing                       |                                                   |                                     |

NOTE: Above duties subject to change. Church Office hours: Wed. & Thurs. 8-1p

TUES. EVE. AA Group Meet THUR. EVE. Scouts Meet

Video Gentle Chair Yoga & Exercise  
Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30-9:00am