

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

CORNERSTONE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026



Rev. January Peavey

APRIL MEETINGS

- Apr 1 - Wednesday 1:00PM**
MISSIONS MEETING
- Apr 6 - Monday 10:00AM**
LADIES CIRCLE MEETING
- Apr 9 - Thursday 4:00pm**
TRUSTEE MEETING
- Apr 10 - Friday 10:00AM**
CARING & SHARING Meeting
- Apr 12 - Sunday 11:30AM**
DEACONS MEETING
- Apr 16 - Thursday 6:00PM**
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
- Apr 25 - 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.*



PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

Celebrating Resurrection and New Life

As April unfolds, we enter the joyful heart of the Easter season—a time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the new life He offers to all who believe. The blooming flowers and lengthening days remind us of God's power to bring life from death, hope from despair, and light from darkness.

In 1 Peter 1:3, we rejoice in this living hope: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." This new birth is a reminder that through Christ, we are made new and invited to walk in the fullness of life.

Easter is not just a day on the calendar but a transformative reality that shapes our daily lives. Romans 6:4 tells us, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." As we embrace this new life, may our hearts overflow with gratitude and our lives reflect Christ's love and grace.

April also invites us to share this good news with others—to be witnesses of the resurrection in our families, neighborhoods, and communities. Let us be bold in proclaiming the hope we have and compassionate in living out God's love.

May this Easter season fill you with peace, joy, and renewed purpose as we celebrate the victory of Christ over death and the promise of eternal life.

With Easter blessings and joy,

Rev. January

Rev. January's email: 1shepherd4god@gmail.com Telephone: 207-409-4409

WWW.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.ORG

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	Romeo Jackson by Melody S.
Connie Heath	Ann & Peter Gribbin by Melody S.
Muriel Knutson	Lorraine Strout by Walter K.
Peggy Libby	Becky Tipp by Carole S.
Stuart Mank	Esther Baldwin
Nola Studley	Fanny Faye Davis
Walter Pendleton	Ava Lash (12)
George Creighton	Linda Winstead by Pat W.
Eric Overlock	Hannah Waters
Cindy Gammon	Deborah Smith
Jason Heath	Koral (age 10)
Walter Kaler	Norman Gauthier by Michelle
Janette Small	

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS --- ANNIVERSARIES

4 Angela Field	18 David & Gayle White
10 Haley Mank	25 Sharon & Dave Landry
14 Addy Ruggieri	
14 Marcia Cifaldo	
17 Linda Lent	
22 Susan Lombardo	
22 Beverly Pacheco	
23 Kathy Lawrence	
25 Michelle Bradley	
28 Marvin Lewis	

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

FILL THE BARREL



Suggested Donations:
Canned Veggies/Soups
Pancake Mix
Pancake Syrup
Can/Dry pet food

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY FOOD PANTRY ALSO ACCEPTS MONETARY DONATIONS.

IMPORTANT DATES AND HAPPENINGS

- April 2 - 6:30pm Maundy Thursday service
- April 3 - 3:00pm Good Friday Service
- April 4 - 9:30am to 11:00am - Kids Egg painting with the Easter Bunny
- April 5 - 6:30am Sunrise service on the lawn
- April 5 - 7:00am Men's Easter Breakfast
- April 5 - Happy Easter everyone! HE has Risen! Indeed!
- April 19 - Children's Clothing Exchange anniversary with cake
- April 24 - Newly called pastor, Rev. Heidi Grueser arrives in Maine
- April 25 - CCCMe State Meeting - UCC Church in Augusta (Info to follow)
- April 26 - Caring & Sharing Sisters hosting a Bingo luncheon.



Mon/Wed/Fri - 8:30 am Gentle Chair Yoga and Exercise

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - March 29

Palm Sunday, celebrated the Sunday before Easter, marks the beginning of Holy Week commemorating Jesus's humble entry into Jerusalem on a donkey.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 2

During Service at 6:30pm Rev. January will have a hand washing, which holds significant symbolic meaning throughout the Bible, often representing purification, innocence, and the renunciation of responsibility for wrongdoing.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 3

A solemn Christian holiday commemorating the Crucifixion of Jesus. At the Wooden Cross display in the church there will be a box and 3x5 cards and pencils. Please leave your burdens, sins, and stresses at the Cross. You do not need to carry these burdens alone because Jesus paid the price, offering peace and emotional relief to those who bring their troubles to Him. Lay it at the Cross.
Messages to be burned at the Easter Sunday sunrise service.

HOLY SATURDAY - April 4

Holy Saturday is the quietest day of Holy Week, yet it has deep meaning. It is the day between the crucifixion and the resurrection, when the body of Jesus lay in the tomb and His followers waited in sorrow and confusion. We do not typically hold service on this day, we should quietly pray and remember its significance.

EASTER SUNDAY - April 5

HE HAS RISEN!! Indeed. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on this third day after His burial, symbolizing victory over death. This day represents the forgiveness of sins and the promise of new life and hope for all believers.

May you all have a glorious and blessed Easter Season.

MISSIONS giving



The table is filling up nicely. Thank you everyone for your gifts to this important mission. These items will be collected until early June. Our church Delegates will be attending the meeting and bringing these gifts. List below is a reminder:

- travel-size toiletries
- small packs of Kleenex
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- dental floss
- nail emery boards
- pens and pencils
- small pads of paper
- playing cards
- crossword puzzle or word search books
- and pocket-sized Bibles

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

Clothes don't grow.

Kids do.



Celebrating 13 Years of the Children's Clothing Exchange on April 19th after service with CAKE!!

Sunday, April 19th, we will mark the 13th anniversary of the Children's Clothing Exchange. What began as a simple gathering around a round table in the upper room has evolved significantly.

It initially expanded to the lower level of the Church, where it was set up each Saturday and taken down before Sunday. As it grew, we eventually outgrew that space. When the Baptist Church acquired and renovated the old Brick School, we were fortunate to have a room available for rent. Susan Lombardo has been at the helm of this mission for many years. In celebration of this milestone, we will be collecting new clothing for our anniversary. Listen for announcements.



and Sloppy Joe's!!

The Caring and Sharing Sisters will be hosting a fun **bingo luncheon on April 26th** following worship service. On the menu is Sloppy Joe's! And ten games of FREE bingo with wrapped prizes. This will be a super fun time for everyone! There will be a guest sign up sheet so the ladies know how much food to prepare. Please sign and join us.

GREETING CARD CADDY

There is a designated box located in the upper room for greeting cards. Given the rising cost of postage these days, this is a wonderful way to express sentiments such as "Happy Birthday," "Thank You," "Happy Anniversary," "Hope You Feel Better," "Get Well Soon," "Miss You," or anything else you can think of. With Easter just around the corner, don't forget to add "Happy Easter" to your list! And remember to check the caddy on Sunday morning to see if a special card is waiting for you.

SCCW HISTORY



This historical time line continues from last month....

- 2017 - September 3rd - the newly renovated Steeple was dedicated along with the recently installed flagpole from the Woodman family in memory of their father, Reverend Wesley G. Woodman.
- September 11th - the old retaining wall was removed by Mat Dyer Excavation to make way for a new one.
- September 19th - Maine-ly Concrete shored up the rock foundation with a cement spray and,
- September 21st - MidCoast Waterproofing sealed the foundation wall with a sprayed-on rubber material at no cost to us.
- 2017 - October 1st - Twenty-three hardy souls hiked up Mt. Battie on the most beautiful Sunday afternoon imaginable! What a fun work-out it was!
- October - Final excavation and compacting was completed on the new stone wall, and, on
- October 16th - the cement blocks arrived to build the new wall. It took several days for Walter Pendleton and Jeff Creighton to build it and several loads of crushed rock donated by Dragon Cement and delivered by Bob Barrett to fill in behind the wall. In the spring loam will be hauled in for plantings.
- 2017 - November - our hand chimers and Sunday School singers joined the bell ringers of Coves Edge in Damariscotta in a delightful
- Christmas concert with refreshments served afterward.
- November - Three people, Sherry Ladd, Muriel Knutson, and Barbara Hall joined the church on the evening of our Maundy Thursday service.
- 2017 - December - An emotional and very moving baptism of Becca White occurred in December and two Christmas Eve services were held. The first was the children's pageant at 4:00 and the candlelight service at 7:00. Both were well attended with a meal served between the two in the "Upper Room."
- 2018 - January - A group from our church attended the "Boars Head Festival" at Rockland Congregational; Appearance by gospel group "Kindred Hearts".
- 2018 - February: Upper Room ceiling replaced
- 2018 - March - SCC's 190th birthday celebrated.
- March - Sunday School children (14 in number) attended "Hope Air" for gymnastics fun
- 2018 - April - New ramp put in the upstairs entrance.
- April - Easter with Rev. Andy Stinson AND Rev. Peter Panagore, guest minister.
- April 8th - Rev. Andy gave an impromptu sermon from scripture selected by a member of the congregation.
- April 21 - 7th Annual Spring Fling Musical

SCCW HISTORY

- 2018 - May - Congregational meeting held to discuss possible purchase of abutting property for potential future use, which was not a good fit for us so it was rejected. The old ramp and granite steps to Upper Room removed and replaced by new maintenance free ramp.
- 2018 - June - SS children (6) sang and played handchimes at Coves Edge in Damariscotta;
- June - first of summer worship services held in "lower sanctuary" (downstairs Fellowship Room);
- June - paving of driveway and parts of parking lot;
- June - SS children performed "Godspell, Jr" under the direction of Nancy vanVuuren, a musical during Warren Days weekend.
- June - new scripture verse placed in newly painted Upper Room; new window treatments in Upper Room.
- 2018 - July: Service in the Park with Warren Baptist.
- 2018 - August: Farewell supper for longtime members, the Turner family (Jen, Haley, and Ben) who have moved to NH;
- 2018 - September 1: New "Saints Garden" dedicated with a memorial bench to long time member Kay Leary; farewell cook-out for Rev. Andy Stinson; transitional minister, Rev. Matt McDonald, selected.
- 2018 - September 9 - The Congregation bid Rev. Andrew Stinson and his family farewell as they embark on heir new journey.
- 2018 - September 30 - The Congregation voted and appointed the Rev. Matthew MacDonald as transitional/interem Minister.
- Rev. MacDonald was terminated in 2019 under unpleasant circumstances.
- 2018 - October - A walk around the "wellness trail" at PBMC by the SS children and several church members; Congregational meeting to discuss future plans for parsonage and barn.
- 2018 - November: All Saints Sunday and Veterans Day celebrated; Holly Berry Fair.
- 2018 - December: "Festival Choir" presented their Christmas cantata; Christmas Eve service; four people joined the church (Jeremy White, Tina Bryant, Debbie Collemer, and Kathleen Borzelli); retirement of Nancy vanVuuren as Music Minister.
- 2019 - January - Pastoral Search committee was formed.
- 2019 - February - We celebrated Boy Scout Week during our Sunday Service on the 3rd and our Sunday school children had an ice skating party after church.
- 2019 - March - Our church celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent and St. Patrick's Day this month. On the 17th, the Caring & Sharing Sisters held their annual Soup Supper Auction. Missions also introduced their adopt a Chick or bunny with special donation projects.
- 2019- April - Recognition of officers, Caring and Sharing Sisters presented their annual 8th Annual Spring Fling.
- 2019- May - Annual Easter Egg Painting party put on by Becky Ruggieri.
- Annual Easter breakfast cooked by the men of the church.
- Mother's Day Luncheon and photos and formation of member directory by life Touch Co.
- 2019 - June - Warren Day. Deacons manned a hot dog stand.
- 2019-2020 - Parsonage was demolished. Global Covid-19 Pandemic forced closing of schools, churches and businesses. To the best of our technological ability, we performed Sunday services online, as did all others.
- 2019 - Rev. Bette Bond was called to be our new Pastor.

Our time line will continue.....next month.

HELLO FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

This is the schedule for our new minister, Pastor Heidi Grueser's arrival.

Pastor Heidi and her family, daughters Koral and Gracie K, along with her brother and his wife will arrive in Maine around April 24th. Their new home is in Warren on Route 1, the white house in front of Mount Pleasant Dental Care - across from Lie Nielsen mfg.

She will spend the first week setting up home and registering the girls for school. She will start her official duties on Monday, May 4, 2026. She will be setting up her office, working with the office staff and deacons on the 'ways' of Second Congregational Church.

This will be a busy and learning week for her so give her a quick 'welcome' if you are at the church that first week. Her first Sunday service will be May 10th – MOTHER'S DAY! More details to follow on gatherings to officially welcome her, so read those emails!!!

To keep the congregation further informed the Pastoral Search Committee is working on revisions to the church by-laws regarding the policy and procedures for Calling a New Minister. As the committee informed you, and you informed us, the current and long-standing method seems flawed. Our 'meet and greet' pizza party received positive feedback with regard to having a casual opportunity to interact with the candidate. When our suggested revisions are completed, we will post them for the congregation to review and comment on BEFORE submitting them for a vote.

Finally, we want to sincerely thank Dr. Pier, the owner of the house Pastor Heidi will be renting. Months ago, he kindly reached out, even before we had a candidate, offering the home in anticipation of our needs. He has worked closely with us and Pastor Heidi to create a contract that works best for her, showing his incredible generosity. God bless Dr. Pier!

Above all, we sincerely thank you—the entire congregation—for your support throughout this process.

Blessings to all,
Cindy, Clint, Carolyn, Marcia and Sharon



Dear Second Congregational family,

Most of you know me by now, as our family has been attending church for the past year and a half. This church has become a place that I am grateful to call home, and I value the warmth and care of our community. Zach and I started our family in Colorado, where we met as high school sweethearts. We have been together for 21 years now, of which we have been married for almost 14. We took a leap of faith and moved to Warren in 2015 because we craved a better upbringing for our kids than we felt any big city could offer.

I recently stepped into the role of Sunday School Superintendent, and I am excited for the opportunity to support our church in growth and reach the children of our community. Sunday school is currently held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month with the care and support of our wonderful teachers, Kathy L. and Michelle B. and the guidance of our very own Rev. January.

The children enjoy learning about the Bible through arts & crafts, stories, and thoughtful conversations with their teachers. Furthermore, our church generously hosts events for the children of Warren such as the Halloween candy table, the children's Christmas shopping spree, and the annual egg painting event.

This year's Easter egg event will be held on **Saturday, April 4th at 9:30am**. The event will begin with a new special treat this year, an Easter story reading by Rev. January in our beautiful sanctuary. Following the reading, they will enjoy time downstairs painting their eggs as well as some light refreshments and games.

I want to thank everyone who has made my family feel so welcome and valued at Second Congregational, everyone who patiently answers my texts and calls as I navigate my new role, and another very special thanks to Becky for taking the time to help plan the Easter event and make sure it is a memorable morning for all.

With gratitude,
Monique

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:

REV. JANUARY EMAIL

Ishepherd4god@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

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

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you all who participated in purchasing the memorial flowers for the Easter Chancel.

We hope you enjoy them. After Easter Sunday

Service please take your designated flower home with you to enjoy.

Kathy Lanphier



Weekly Offering

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING	MISSIONS
03/01/26	53	\$2430.00	\$365.00
03/08/26	45	1298.00	124.00
03/15/26	44	930.00	29.00
03/22/26	34	520.00	18.00
03/29/26	---	----	----

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 208.273.2338

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<u>1</u> 1:00pm Missions 4pm Choir rehearsal	<u>2</u> 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Maudy Service Music: Paul/Choir	<u>3</u> Good Friday 3:pm Service Music: Barbara	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> 6:30a Sunrise Service 7:00a Men's Breakfast 10:00a Service Music: Paul/Choir	<u>6</u> 10-am Ladies Circle Mtg	<u>7</u> 9-11am Table Talk	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9-11am CCE 4:00pm Trustee meeting	<u>10</u> 10am Caring Sharing Mtg	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> 10am Service Holy Humor Sunday Deacon Mtg 11:30 Music: Paul	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 9-11am Table Talk	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 9-11am CCE 6:00pm Council mtg	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> 10am Service CCE Celebration & Clothing Drive Music: Paul	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 9-11am Table Talk	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 9-11am CCE	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> CCCMe Mtg Augusta 9m Men's Group Meeting
<u>26</u> 10am Service C&S Bingo Luncheon After service Music: Richard Walton	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 9-11am Table Talk	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 9-11am CCE	<u>1</u> MAY 10am Caring Sharing Mtg	<u>2</u>
LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY		
04/05 Donna Lewis 04/12 Aleta Mank 04/19 Melody Sainio 04/26 Merle Vanner	04/05 Becky/Carolyn 04/12 Betty/Steve 04/19 Michelle/Zach 04/26 Carolyn/Kathleen	04/05 Sterling Robinson 04/12 Jeff Creighton 04/19 Irene Maxcy 04/26 Sandra Overlock	04/05 Kathleen & Carolyn 04/12 Sharon & Dave 04/19 Clint & Kathy 04/26 Marcia & Joe	04/05 Men's Group 04/12 Ladies Circle 04/19 Congregation 04/26 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

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