



# THE CORNERSTONE

## APRIL - 2024

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren  
P.O. Box 206 – 252 Main Street – Warren, Maine 04864 – (207) 273-2338  
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T.S. Eliot said, “April is the cruelest month.” I’m not sure if he meant because of the pranksters on April Fool’s Day, or thinking that we’re in springtime and still get snow, or just because it teases us of things to come. Whether it’s cruel or kind, April is upon us! Easter is over but Eastertide lasts for weeks. In fact, we celebrate Easter up until Pentecost, which is in May this year.



The Lenten journey was long, and brought us through some reflection, learning of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, Holy Week, culminating in a glorious Easter celebration! Because of a spring storm of ice/sleet/rain and snow, coupled with power outages, we sadly did not get to celebrate Palm Sunday this year. We did have a very meaningful Maundy Thursday service and a moving Good Friday service as well. Better to have missed the beginning of holy week, than to have Good Friday without Easter Sunday! How heartbreaking and devastating THAT would be.... LITERALLY, AND FIGURATIVELY. Praise God, Christ is Risen !!

April is the cruelest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.  
Winter kept us warm, covering  
Earth in forgetful snow.....

My favorite: “My lover said to me, Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one! Look, the winter is past, and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air. The fig trees are forming young fruit, and the fragrant grapevines are blossoming. Rise up, my darling. Come away with me, my fair one!” Song of Songs 2: 10-13

Happy April!

*Pastor Bette*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SCCW

- **APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>** – 7:30 am – 3:00pm = CCC Maine State meeting - [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)  
Where: N. Deering Congregational Church, 1364 Washington Ave, Portland, ME  
*By Royal command, every eligible maiden, gent, and clergy is to attend.  
Your carriage awaits!*

**Whoever wishes to attend, we will be meeting at church 6:00am to carpool.**

- **April 13<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00 am – Grief Group – last meeting.
- **April 13<sup>th</sup>** – 5 - 8 pm –  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Night of Music hosted by the Caring & Sharing Sisters.  
A love offering will benefit the SAD 40 Homeless Student Initiative.



## BAPTISM – MEMBERSHIP

We are planning a baptism service and taking in new members on the Day of Pentecost, May 19. There will be classes for both, and if anyone is interested in being baptized and/or becoming a member of Second Congregational Church, please see the pastor or one of the deacons. This is a great day in the church! The Holy Spirit descends like a dove. PB

## BIBLE STUDY

We finished a 6-week study on “Having Mercy” for the Lenten season. This was a more conversation-driven, interactive and reflective study. Our next study will be in May, a 4-week study on the Book of James. Tuesdays at 1 pm continues to be the most accessible time, so we shall continue that. James is a very practical, “user-friendly” epistle. Hope to see you there! PB

## EASTER GRATITUDE

Our Chancel was beautiful on Easter Sunday. Thanks for the lovely decorating by Patty Overlock and thanks to all who participated in the Flower memorials. All the Holy Week music was amazing, thank you Beverly and the Bell Ringers and Choir. The men’s breakfast was delicious, thanks to all the guys for their hard work preparing the breakfast. And a thanks to Rev. Bette for a Holy week filled with emotion, and a moving sunrise service and inspiring Easter message reminding us of the profound significance of this most holy season. Thank you, Rev. Bette, for your continued leadership and for the light you bring into our lives, especially during these times of reflection and celebration. CR



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 prayer list. *(In some instances, we know that this may not be possible)*. If your loved one has received the healing Grace of God, please let us know so we can remove them from the prayer list.

## GOD'S PRAYERS

Lorraine Strout by Linda K.  
Daniel by Melody S.  
Bob Carpenter  
Nathan by Clint L.  
Lois Silloway by Linda L.  
Joel Kinney by Janice O.  
Rev. Bill Meyer  
Robert Littlehale

Stuart Mank  
Gabe DeRaps  
Wayne Quinn  
Gilber Dare by Diana  
Sheila A. by Tina B.  
Emily Van Kleeck  
Gabe Payson by Pat W.  
Jamie by Sterling R.

Jennifer Blastow  
Stan Waltz by Melody  
Cathy Clough by Becky  
Gloria Ouellette by Deb C.  
Heidi White by Janice O.  
Sue Mercier by Linda L.  
Romeo Jackson by Melody S.  
Mary Lee Melvin

To all those impacted by the Francis Scott Key bridge collapse in Baltimore, Md.

## Happy Birthday

4 Angelia Field  
10 Haley Mank  
14 Addy Ruggieri  
14 Marcia Cifaldo  
17 Linda Lent  
22 Susan Lombardo  
22 Beverly Pacheco  
23 Cathy Lawrence  
25 Michelle Bradley  
28 Marvin Lewis



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who gave to our National Association's Fair Share. Again, this year we are a Fair Share Plus Church! Thank you to all who gave 'extra' for those who were unable to give. With all churches working together, we all benefit. Our church is very supportive. The Association is appreciative, and I am as well. Thank you and Blessings to all !!

*Marcia Cifaldo, Year-Round Delegate*

## Happy Anniversary

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

# Be A Greeter!



Sign up to be a Sunday morning Greeter. See one of the Hospitality committee members; Carolyn, Robin, or Tina.

The church is “a kingdom of priests” (*1 Peter 2:9*) As a greeter, you are a minister. Every Christian believer is called to ministry, gifted by the Holy Spirit, and in baptism ordained for ministry (*Ephesians 4:11-12*)



Stacey Rome, Karter, Zayden, and Amethyst Johnson

<< Merle Vanner looking dashing. He was liturgist on St. Patrick’s Day.



St. Patrick is known for sharing the Gospel with the people of Ireland, and on St. Patrick’s Day, we can remember that we too are called to be a holy nation and share the Gospel with others. We can celebrate the calling that the Lord has placed on our lives and seek opportunities to proclaim His excellencies.

What have you shared this day?



Rev. Bette entertained on her accordion after service on St Patty’s Day as Sam Chapman looked on.

Photos Courtesy: Hope Creighton  
Lovely floral arrangements: Patricia Overlock

*thank you*

Our church is so fortunate to have an active Mission Board, a Discretionary Fund and a Bowes Fund. They all function a bit differently and this is how each one works to meet the needs of our community and beyond.

**The Mission Board** is made up of 5 members, and Rev. Bette, who attends our monthly meeting, and whose input is valuable to us in our decision making. Anyone is invited to attend our meetings and we often have visitors. We encourage this! Our funds come from you, the congregation, not from the general offering or an endowment. Because of the generous giving of this congregation, we are able to give to individuals, numerous organizations, to make the monthly donation for the Children's Clothing Exchange housed in the Brick School, as well as, collect an Advent and Lent offering. We just collected a very generous offering for our Discretionary Fund for Lent. In 2023 Missions gave out over \$18,000 and it all came from this congregation!

**The Discretionary Fund** functions quite differently from Missions in that it is Rev. Bette who normally receives calls from individuals seeking assistance. Our treasurer works with the minister in confidence to either help folks or steer them in the right direction to get the help they need. This fund has an endowment and receives 5% of the latest 3-year average. However, because it is a small endowment and the need is so great, donations are needed and welcome! In the year 2023 the fund was allowed \$3,500, but gave out nearly \$10,000! Once again this is possible because of the generosity of this congregation.

**The Bowes Fund** is an endowment left to the church many years ago for the "poor and needy of Warren". It is quite restrictive because it is only for the residents of Warren. The Bowes Fund Board consists of 5 members, who are appointed by those on the board. The fund has an endowment, which like the Discretionary Fund, receives 5% of the latest 3-year average. Because that fund has grown over the years, in 2023 it was allowed nearly \$15,000 to give to those in need, and gave out around \$7,000. If the Discretionary Fund receives a request from someone who resides in Warren, the Bowes Fund will often step in to assist as well.

**SCCW** has such dedicated and generous members and friends, yes, all of you! Not only do we have these funds, but we partner with the WBC to run a very successful food pantry and our church supports the Children's Clothing Exchange, which can always use good used children's clothing, boys and girls. This is the work we are called to do, so keep up the good work!

**Thank you Thank you Thank you!**

Irene Maxcy



*I take classes online at the Dallas Theological Institute and every so often I receive an email from the President of DTS Mark Yarbrough giving incite. I shared these with Sheila. I hope you find this inspiring especially at this time of year.* Pat Weaver

Our world is in turmoil. But for believers, even as we acknowledge the pain and problems in the world, we have hope. So many around us don't understand this . . . because they don't know Jesus. But Christians *do* know Jesus. We *do* have hope amid the turmoil and sorrow.

With the return of Jesus growing nearer each day—and with the consequences of evil breaking in like a storm—there is an urgency to share the gospel.

As the storm grows, we have an opportunity to shine Christ's hope through building a stronger, brighter church. We can be “a living and holy sacrifice” (Romans 12:1).

A couple of years ago, I was reminded of the call to be “a living and holy sacrifice” by a DTS student from an undisclosed country, who was in a class I taught. Due to the pandemic, many students couldn't get visas to be on the Dallas campus that year. I would show up in the classroom every Wednesday morning and teach a live course to about 45 students in the classroom and 10 remote students on a big screen in front of me. When class was over, it was about 2:00 a.m. for this student on the other side of the world. He had to get up at 5:00 a.m. for work! *Yet he never missed a class.*

*Think of it.* Our brother—training to become a pastor in an increasingly hostile and dangerous nation—was grateful to have an opportunity to study at Dallas Theological Seminary. So grateful he regularly stayed up through the night, attended class by video, and got no sleep before wearily heading to work.

His sacrifice and commitment changed me. He changed the attitude of every student in that class. Nobody complained about *anything!* Not the tough assignments. Not the reading and studying. Nothing. **Our brother reminded us of what it means to be a follower of Christ—a disciple.** You take up your cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). You put your hand to the plow and don't look back (Luke 9:62). You pour yourself out as a living sacrifice (2 Timothy 4:6; Romans 12:1).

**Why? Because people need God in our broken world! And more people come to know about Him when His Word is *faithfully* and *accurately* taught and lived out.**

When I get a chance to share the gospel, what do I say?

Often, if someone tells me, “Oh, I'm not into that,” I give them my card and say, “Hey, I'll tell you what. The path you're going down is likely to end up in what I call ‘life bankruptcy’. When you hit bottom, give me a call. I'm here to tell you a better way—about a God who has the answers for the mess we're all in and who reveals Himself in a clear, credible manner.”

The world *is* spiritually bankrupt. It's becoming more obvious day by day, isn't it? Rather than wallow in the news, let's give hope. As disciples, we have been commissioned to prepare the world for the return of Christ, and it starts with sharing the gospel.

**The hunger is there. Christians must be prepared to meet today's storm with hope.**

Firmly anchored in the hope of Christ,  
*President of DTS Mark Yarbrough*



In March, the Caring and Sharing Sisters long time Treasurer, Janice Overlock, retired from her position after 35 years. During those years Janice kept impeccable records with the upmost efficiency and excellence, using the same ledger throughout all those years. Janice will remain a member of C&S helping in any capacity she is able. We are very grateful for her friendship and devotion to this group. And ask that God bless her and her family in all of their days.

Our 2024 Slate of Officers include, Carolyn Robinson/President, Tina Bryant/Vice-President, Donna Lewis/Secretary, Kat Lanphier/Corresponding Secretary and filling some really big shoes, our newly elected Treasurer will be Susan Lombardo. Good luck and thank you to Susan and to all the ladies for their devotion and dedication.

Moving forward, Caring & Sharing will be hosting the tenth annual Spring Fling on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Our public church suppers will begin on May 9<sup>th</sup> and continue monthly through August.

Membership is open to all ladies of the church. If you care to join us or just check us out our monthly meetings are open to all. Next meeting is April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. ❤️



Kathleen Borzelli has stepped down from SCCW Card Ministry. We thank her for her ministry to SCCW. Aleta Mank has agreed to step in. Now that she has retired, Aleta has agreed to take on this most important ministry. In this world of digital this and digital that, it's a delight to receive an actual hand-written card from someone. A word of encouragement goes a long way to comfort those who are sick or grieving. We hope you have enjoyed receiving cards and that they have brought delight and comfort to you.

Cards and stamps are always needed, so if you care to donate either, please see Aleta.

**OFFICE NOTE:** Attached with this newsletter is a birthday and anniversary list. Please check your name for date correctness and let the office know, or if you are not listed, please contact the office to be added to the list. Thank you.



**APRIL REQUESTS:**

Toiletries: hand soap, bath soap, deodorant, band aids, toothpaste.

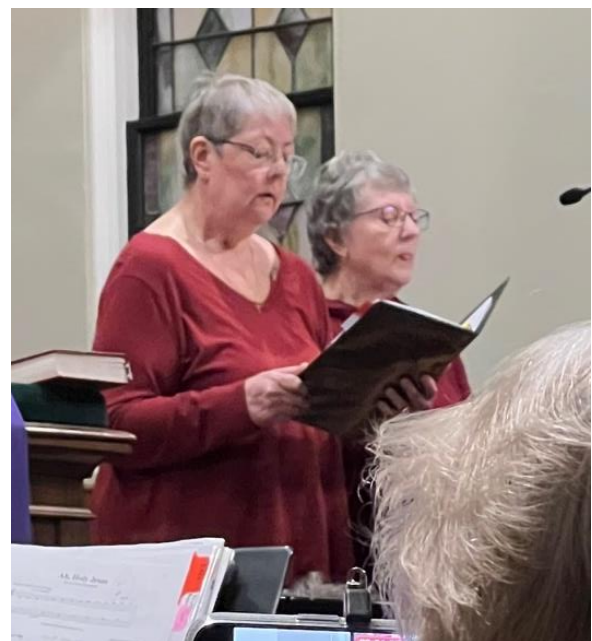
Any non-perishable food items always accepted.

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday service was very poignant and beautiful. From a reading of John 13 to the washing of our hands and service of communion, we left feeling cleansed not only of body (hands) but cleansed of mind and soul.



# GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE...



During the Good Friday service, Aleta and Melody sang “Were You There”. A few tears were shed during their beautiful performance. Rev. Bette sat quietly listening. The Upper Room Bell Choir directed by Beverly, sang “Fairest Lord Jesus” and “My Lord, My Love is Crucified”.

Rev. Bette’s Good Friday Prayer: Holy God and Father of us all, on this night of solemnity and sorrow, we remember the suffering of our Savior. The rejection, the betrayal, the abandonment from those he loved....the burden he bore, the agony endured and the shame that should have been ours.... All for love. May we dwell this night on that love, in Christ, AMEN



# BUNNY SATURDAY...

The Easter Bunny once again visited here at SCCW. The Board of Christian Ed hosted an Egg Painting event with nearly 80 children in attendance. Smiles and laughter all around the fellowship room. Thank you, Becky.



Charlotte, Irene Maxcy's Granddaughter fell in love with our Bunny and the Bunny loved her, she wouldn't let go!



Kendall, Sharon Landry's Great Granddaughter was not a bit frightened by the Bunny. Her very first Easter.

More pictures --->



Best day ever! Amethyst and Stacey manned the game/prize table. Bunny thrilled all the children who had a great time painting their Easter eggs. Each child received a small bag of goodies on their way out.



## EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE...



Sunrise service was beautiful. Rev. Bette recited the rest of the story. The weather was cool and the fire kept us warm.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



The annual Men's group Easter breakfast was delicious, better than ever. The smell of bacon permeated throughout the church. Nearly 40 were in attendance. Thanks guys!

## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE...



From the beautiful God given fresh crisp morning to the lovely flowers in the sanctuary and the bells ringing and a heavenly voice singing, and many praises to God for the miracle who walked through the doors, Jennifer Blastow. She is living proof that prayers do indeed get answered. Easter morning was amazing. We hope everyone enjoyed the day with their families.

**APRIL MEETINGS**

- **Ladies Circle**  
*Monday April 1 – 10am*
- **Caring & Sharing Sisters**  
*Monday April 1 – 6:30pm*
- **Missions Meeting**  
*Wednesday April 3 - Noon*
- **Deacon Meeting**  
*Thursday April 4 – 4:00pm*
- **Trustee Meeting**  
*Thursday April 11 – 6:30pm*
- **Church Council Meeting**  
*Thursday April 18 – 6:30pm*
- **Men’s Group Meeting**  
*Sat. April 27 - 9:00 am*



**Bottle redemption to benefit THE CHILDREN’S CLOTHING EXCHANGE**

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

Please empty your bags directly into the tall brown box. The redemption center does not want smaller bags. Thank you!

**REMINDER:** On several occasions lately the fellowship room door has been left unlocked or unlatched. Please when you leave push the door shut to make sure it has latched fully and locked.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

Visited our website recently?  
[www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org](http://www.SECONDCONGREGATIONAL.org)



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

If you have information you would like to add to this newsletter, please don’t hesitate to contact the office. We are also on Facebook



On-Line giving is now available. [Click this link.](#)

THANK YOU

for your continued support.



Date	Attendance	Offering	Missions
03/03	56	\$ 1908.00	N/A
03/10	36	2264.00	475.00
03/17	66	1373.00	98.00
03/24	Snow/Ice	N/A	N/A
03/31	90	2840.00	293.00

**THANKS FOR READING**

This newsletter is E-mailed each month.

To insure you get your copy make sure we have your correct email address.

Printed and regular USPS mailed copies are available upon request.

# April 2024

**SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 P O BOX 206 WARREN, MAINE 04864 207.273.2338

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Happy Fools 10:30 Ladies Circle 6:30p Caring/Sharing	<b>2</b> 9-11am Coffee Chat	<b>3</b> 12:00 Missions	<b>4</b> 9-11am CCE 4:00pm Deacons Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> State Mtg
<b>7</b> 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9-11am Coffee Chat	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Trustee Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10am Last Grief Group meeting SPRING FLING 6:00PM
<b>14</b> 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9-11am Coffee Chat	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Council Mtg	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9-11am Coffee Chat	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9-11am CCE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am Men's Mtg
<b>28</b> 10:00am Service 9:45am Children's SS	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9-11am Coffee Chat	<b>1</b> May	<b>2</b> 9-11am CCE 6:30pm Deacons Mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

LITURGIST	DEACONS	TRUSTEES	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY
04/07 Aleta Mank	04/07 Susan L. & Karen C.	04/07 Jeff Creighton	04/07 Wes & Tina	04/07 The Men's Group
04/14 Merle Vanner	04/14 Cindy B. & Wes A.	04/14 Irene Maxcy	04/14 Steven & Susan L.	04/14 Ladies Circle
04/21 Weston Ames	04/21 Susan L. & Michelle B.	04/21 Sandra Overlock	04/21 Walter & Linda K.	04/21 Congregation
04/28 Niva-jean Poland	04/28 Cindy B. & Karen C.	04/28 Marcia Cifaldo	04/28 Robin & Guest	04/28 Caring/Sharing

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

Chair Yoga – Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30am



This is the SCCW Church family and friend's **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LIST**. Please check your name for accuracy. If there are any errors, please let the office know or if your name is not listed, please let us know.

<p><u>January</u></p> <p>01 Ryan &amp; Bridget DiPompo</p>	<p><u>February</u></p>	<p><u>March</u></p> <p>01 Joe &amp; Marcia Cifaldo</p>	<p><u>April</u></p> <p>18 David &amp; Gayle White</p> <p>25 Sharon &amp; Dave Landry</p> <p>30 Gerald &amp; Evelyn Anderson</p>
<p><u>May</u></p> <p>06 Gus &amp; Becky Ruggieri</p> <p>15 Stephen &amp; Susan Lombardo</p> <p>18 Jeff &amp; Hope Creighton</p> <p>19 Wayne &amp; Robin Quinn</p>	<p><u>June</u></p> <p>02 Marvin &amp; Donna Lewis</p> <p>05 Bob &amp; Karen Carpenter</p> <p>12 Richard &amp; Irene Maxcy</p> <p>15 David &amp; Betty Baker</p> <p>17 Jim &amp; Beverly Pacheco</p> <p>22 Ken &amp; Linda Lent</p>	<p><u>July</u></p> <p>11 John &amp; Tammy Hagin</p>	<p><u>August</u></p> <p>10 Vicki &amp; Bob Barrett</p> <p>27 Bob &amp; Harlean Jordan</p>
<p><u>September</u></p>	<p><u>October</u></p> <p>10 Neil &amp; Pearl Stetson</p> <p>18 Albert &amp; Janice Overlock</p> <p>23 Walter &amp; Linda Kaler</p>	<p><u>November</u></p> <p>01 Bradley &amp; Valerie Miller</p>	<p><u>December</u></p> <p>17 Leland &amp; Valerie Boggs II</p> <p>20 Eric &amp; Patty Overlock</p> <p>31 Sterling &amp; Carolyn Robinson</p>

*You are Invited!*

TOGETHER  
WITH FAMILY

**PAT**  
Weaver  
&  
**SAM**  
Chapman

INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE  
THEIR WEDDING DAY

Saturday-July 20, 2024 at 12 noon

*Second Congregational Church of Warren*

252 Main Street  
Warren, Maine 04864  
Reception to Follow



*To our Church Family:*

*Sam and I would like to invite all to our celebration of marriage on July 20th, at 12 noon at the Church, with the reception at the American Legion Hall in Rockland.*

*We ask if you are coming to the reception, please RSVP by June 1<sup>st</sup>. RSVP cards available in the church office. We want to celebrate our happiness with our family and your presence is our gift.*

**RESPONSE**  
June 1, 2024

Your presence is our gift

M \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ accepts with pleasure  
\_\_\_ declines with regret

**RECEPTION**  
AMERICAN LEGION HALL  
335 Limerock Street  
Rockland, Maine 04841