

The Cornerstone-April 2020

Publisher: 2CCWM

Volume: No 4

Issue: No 4

A monthly publication compiled by the Second Congregational Church of Warren, Maine.

PO Box 206, 252 Main St., Warren, Maine 04864 ph. (207) 273-2338 E-mail churchoffice@secondcongregational.org



Just a few short weeks ago we were all going about our “business as usual” when along comes something we had only first heard about months ago in China, the coronavirus. It reminds me of a snow globe sitting perfectly still on a shelf and along comes someone and gives it a tremendous shake. Eventually the snow settles, but not before everything inside the snow globe is rearranged. We are waiting for the snow to settle and aren’t quite sure when it will or how our lives will be rearranged. This is where faith comes in.

Listen to the words of Jesus from Matthew 6:26-27, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

This speaks to the hoarding of food and medicine, and yes, toilet paper. Why are we doing this? Leaving some without necessities and the medical community without needed supplies? It seems we have lost our faith in God to provide what we need. I saw a sign recently which read, “Even Noah only took 2 of each”. How quickly we forget Jesus’ commandment to us, “Love your neighbor as yourself”.

Jesus continues in Matthew 6:34, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

“Be not afraid” is spoken over and over again in the bible, and yet, here we are afraid. This is not to say we shouldn’t be doing all we are told to do to stay safe, but have we forgotten God is with us? People are getting sick and worse, losing their jobs and worse, becoming depressed and worse, but we cannot give in to fear. God is with us.

Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7, while imprisoned, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

The encouraging words of the apostle Paul should give us comfort in these trying times and remind us we are never alone. So pray with grateful hearts to God and your prayers will be heard. We all have trials and tribulations, but in these uncertain times know we are all in this together. “No one can pray and worry at the same time.” -Max Lucado

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.
I sincerely hope the snow settles for us
soon and even though our world may be
rearranged, may our faith overcome our
fear. Amen

-Irene

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- 4/19 Leland Boggs II
- 4/22 Susan Lombardo
- 4/22 Brianna Knutson
- 4/28 Marvin Lewis

ANNIVERSARIES



<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
3/01	\$1,340.25	60
3/08	\$1,198.00	57
3/15	\$ 740.00	40
3/22	\$ 725.00	0

- 4/02 Amy & Craig Lear
- 4/25 Dave & Sharon Landry
- 4/30 Evelyn & Gerald Anderson



BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 Keaton Lear
- 4/4 Angelia Field
- 4/8 Paul Andrews
- 4/10 Haley Mank
- 4/13 Ashley Gardner
- 4/14 Joe Gamage
- 4/14 Addy Ruggieri
- 4/14 Marcia Cifaldo
- 4/17 Linda Lent
- 4/18 Justin Hanks

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE



During the virus shutdowns, I am in the office just on Thursdays from 8-noon. I will be glad to answer your calls and email but would prefer that no one come “visiting” since I am doing all I can not to bring the virus home to my family. We have received some tithings thru the

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mail and hope all of you will help support your church during these stressful times. We still have bills to pay.

Please remember to inform the office if you change any of your personal information. (Emails, addresses, etc.)

As far as our prayer list, please inform Susan if you want to add a name or request a person to be taken off of the bulletin.

When different committees use the office, please put the office back the way you found it.

Also the door going out of the Fellowship Hall isn't being pulled shut all the way leaving the lock unlocked.

Work began in July on the foundation for the two rooms and the new rooms will be lighted with gas. A bathroom was installed in the parsonage in 1913 for \$239.82. In 1917, electric lighting was installed in the parsonage and the ladies \$35.00 towards the cost. Records show in that in June 1910, the pastor was thanked for papering the parlor in the parsonage. The December Fair of 1910 earned a total of \$125.39 and by 1950, the proceeds we \$415.56

In 1920, the circle first began preparing the meal before the Annual Meeting of the church. At this time it was the supper meal. In 1919, the organist was paid \$2.00 a week; the wage went up to \$3.00 a week in 1951 and increased to \$10.00 in 1969. In 1953, the Ladies Circle purchased electric 50 cup coffee urns for \$48.97 and in 1980, they purchased a 100 cup percolator.

SOME MORE FUN HISTORY ABOUT THE LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE



In 1903, the ladies paid \$4.00 for a stove and gas lights for the parsonage. In 1924 the ladies paid \$25.00 for a stove. In 1911 it was voted to see if Mr. Stevens would contract to build the dining room and parlor for \$700.00.

In 1974, the State Meeting was held in Warren, the same year the parking lot was built. In 1975, the Ladies Circle sponsored a family supper for Maundy Thursday. By 1987, the circle was holding 3 public suppers, 2 fairs and a tale at Warren Day. The money was used to support the church and parsonage for whatever was needed. We also have a Mission Fund which is given once a year to a cause decided on by the group. Following are some of the prices charged for the public supper.

1901=\$0.15
1916=\$0.20
1942=\$0.40

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1946=\$0.75

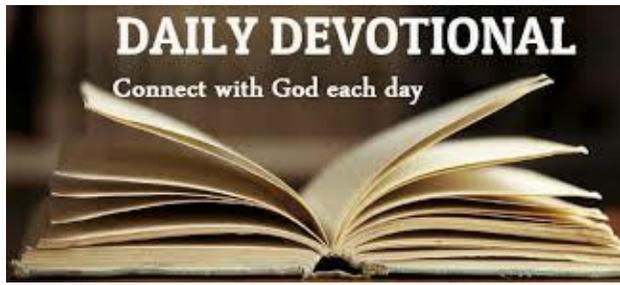
1957=\$1.00

1972=\$1.50

1974=\$2.00

1980=\$3.00

Also in 1975, 2 dishwashers were hired for the supper and were paid \$5.00 each.



Good morning Second Congregational Church family.

For those not connected by email and internet...Our candidate for ministry, Reverend Bette Bond, offered, and is providing, morning devotions to our congregation during these times of worry and disconnect from each other. If you are receiving these each morning by email and know someone who does not...maybe you could print off and tape to a friend's door!

Devotion 2

Take a moment to think about what it is you truly need right now. Is it food, drink, something to make you laugh, some quiet, some assurance, some

peace? What does your soul/body crave right at this second?

During these uncertain times, we need to pay attention to basic needs - getting nutritious food, hydration and fresh air. We need to exercise, even cleaning or just walking outside, yoga, or good old-fashioned calisthenics! And for our soul/spirit, we need to draw near to God. God is our refuge and our strength, our Rock, our hiding place (find these in Scripture). God is our comforter, protector, and shepherd. Prayer, meditation, reading Scripture, reading spiritual books, journaling – all of these can help us through these days and weeks to come. Jesus offers us **peace of mind** - and not the short-term, superficial peace the world offers- that is temporary and fleeting. Jesus offers **complete peace** in knowing that we are in God's hands. Jesus' words to the disciples when they were confused are no less vital to us today. He asks us to not be troubled, and to keep our hearts (and minds) from being afraid. Do you trust in Him?

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27

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On Saturday, March 7th, 9 women and 3 men participated in the Habitat for Humanity Women Build Week 2020. We measured, cut, and attached strapping to 3 homes in Philbrick Commons in Rockland. This will be a 12 small house affordable pocket neighborhood when completed, targeting veterans, elderly, middle-aged singles/couples and small families. My heart was full on this day, as this diverse team, some who did not know one another, worked together on homes for people they may never know. This is what we are called to do my friends. Thank you to all who came out on this cold, windy day in March.

UPDATE ON STATE MEETINGS

The CCCME Spring Meeting on April 25, 2020 in Jonesport, Maine has been cancelled. The fall meeting of CCCME has been scheduled for October 24, 2020 in Jonesport. -Marcia

UPDATE ON NACCC ANNUAL MEETING

The NACCC Annual Meeting in Portland, Me on June 27-30, 2020 is still being planned. The planning committee is monitoring the situation and will keep all churches informed. -Marcia

FAIR SHARE UPDATE

Our church's Fair Share has been sent in. I would like to thank everyone who sent in their Fair Share. Also, a big thank you to the Missions, Caring & Sharing, and the Deacons. With every ones help (and an anonymous donation), we have made Fair Share this year! I certainly appreciate all of the donations and I know that the NACCC does as well! -Marcia

NACCC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A voluntary association is only as strong as its members are active and participating. To be considered an active member of NACCC, a church must make a yearly financial contribution to the shared ministries fund (or Fair Share).

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A member church which does NOT make a yearly financial contribution to the Fare Share Ministries is in breach of fellowship and is considered to be an inactive member church. A church which breaches fellowship shall be notified by the secretary of the association that it has been placed on the inactive list. An inactive church shall be automatically restored to active status by making a contribution to the shared ministry fund.

If a church member church is in breach of fellowship for 3 successive years, its name shall automatically be removed from the roll of member churches and the name of its minister removed from the list of NACCC minister's access to continued MMBB benefit services thru the NACCC. There is a process for churches and ministers to be reactivated in membership with NACCC. -Marcia

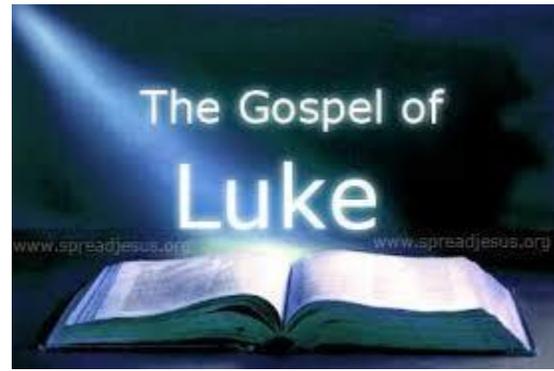
SERVICES NOT OFFERED WITHOUT FAIR SHARE

1. NACCC mission partners could not be supported on a dollar to dollar basis.
2. Scholarships and grants would not be available to aid the training of future ministers.
3. There would not be an annual meeting or any gatherings offered to adults, youth or ministers.
4. Current ministers and retired ministers could not be supported and minister convocations would have to be discontinued.
5. Job boards would not be available for churches and

ministers to connect with each other.

6. New churches and churches in conflict would not have a place to turn to.
7. Financial grants would not be available to churches in need.
8. Loans would not be available for congregations to invest in their future. -Marcia

LUKE 6:38 NIV



Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”