

The Cornerstone-December 2019

Publisher: 2CCWM

Volume: No 12

Issue: No 12

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



"For to us, a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
~Isaiah 9:6 New International Version

On a trip to Jordan, I stood on a barren hillside overlooking the Wadi Mosu, the valley of Moses, and wondered, as the Israelites must have, "Is that all there is?" No trees and very little vegetation even though it was the rainy season. Later, as we rode along the desert highway towards Amman, our guide, Ali, scoffed "Land of milk and honey! Show me!" Yet this inhospitable landscape is the birthplace of three of the world's greatest religions. In this place where people still live a nomadic life, moving from place to place in search of sustenance, great prophets arose proclaiming hope to all who would listen. People, their lives at the mercy of warring tribes, and the whims of nature took confidence from their messages. These prophets were preaching of a single God who required personal responsibility and compassion for others. As I read the news or watch a newscast today, I find

myself wondering, "Is that all there is? Is this the best we can be?" I'm overwhelmed by the bombardment of violence, terrorism around the world, misuse of authority, absence of civility, and old adversaries rattling their swords again. People all around the world are fleeing oppression, just as the Israelites did more than 3000 years ago. And, just as it was then, they are being met with hostility, not compassion. Although we proclaim that we study history so as not to repeat it, we seem to be unable to learn some lessons, unable to do the simplest of exercises, that is, to put ourselves in the others' shoes. For, if we make a genuine effort to understand, I believe compassion will very naturally follow. Embedded in those messages of old, and in our heart's desire today, are longing for peace and a return to civility. We and all humankind, have a deep longing for peace. Throughout history, we have often been distracted by selfishness and pride, and self-interest has become the rule by which we live. But our desires for, our need for, peace and justice lie within all of us. This Advent and Christmas season, I pray that we all become militant advocates for peace. I pray that we are all seekers of justice and advocates for compassion. If these characteristics are part of our lifestyle, then the benefits of the New Year will be manifold. Grace and peace.

-Rev. Oscar Wallace

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ADVENT

Advent means “coming” in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. The four Sundays and weeks of Advent prepare and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Each Sunday, beginning with December 1 and ending on December 22, is represented by hope, peace, joy and love.

December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent and the day we celebrate hope.

Our hope is for the Children’s Clothing Exchange to be sustainable and for all who participate, either by donating clothes or helping those who come to shop, to share that vision of hope. May parents and their children find not only clothes, but hope, at the Children’s Clothing Exchange.

December 8 is the second Sunday of Advent and the day we celebrate peace.

May peace be in the hearts of children all over the world on this day. Be ever mindful of families in need and make a donation of a toy, game or book to Toys for Tots. Find peace in sharing the gift of time with a child.

December 15 is the third Sunday of Advent and the day we celebrate joy.

Bring joy to those in need by donating food to the AIO Ready Food Bags (for people who are homeless, living in their vehicles or in tents), for there is no joy in being hungry. Spread joy by sharing the gift of food with those who have very limited cooking ability.

December 22 is the fourth Sunday of Advent and the day we celebrate love.

Let us love one another, even those we will never meet and whose culture is different from our own. Make a donation to Heifer International to promote self-reliance in those who live with insecurity every day. Send love all over the world with the gift of an animal.

May hope, peace, joy and love be yours this Advent season.

-Irene

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/03	\$1,173.00	56
11/10	\$1,801.00	61
11/17	\$1,021.25	52
11/24	\$1,239.00	51



BIRTHDAYS

12/06	Harlene Jordan
12/06	Jane Sprowl
12/08	Susie Overlock
12/12	Janet Andrews
12/12	Julie Lent
12/13	Patty Overlock
12/17	Sarah Brown
12/19	Hope Creighton
12/20	Madison McIntosh
12/23	James Lent
12/24	Bob Augustine

ANNIVERSARIES



12/17	Leland & Valerie Boggs II
12/20	Eric & Patricia Overlock
12/31	Sterling & Carolyn Robinson

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE



Please remember to inform the office if you change any of your personal information. As far as our prayer list, please inform Susan if you want to add a name or a 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.

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FROM THE TREASURER



Treasurer Report

Offering envelopes will be available on Dec.15th. The numbers have been reconfigured so look for your name as your number could have changed. If you do not find your name and would like to use envelopes please take an unmarked box and write your name on the provided sheet or see me or Irene. If you do not want to use envelopes please let us know. Also let me know as soon as possible if you DO NOT want a tax receipt for your donations for 2019. I have the list from individuals that told me they didn't want to receive one, but would like to reconfirm.

FOOD PANTRY



Thanks to everyone who brought in food for the month of November. Soon the weather will be getting colder and people will want comfort food. If anyone wants to donate money please give it to Janice Overlock. Here is the list for December.

The following list is:

- Dec 1 Spaghetti sauce
- Dec 8 Macaroni (no wheat)
- Dec 15 Baked beans (no vegetarian)
- Dec 22 Jar of jelly
- Dec 29 Cream soup

Thanks again for the food donations and everyone please keep warm.



Don't forget to join us for fellowship and interesting conversation in the upstairs dining room on Tuesdays at 9 a.m.. If anyone would like to bring some treats to go along with coffee, we'd love it.

Come and enjoy!

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church at least once in a while. I am also looking for donations of bible stories on tape or DVD to add to our library.

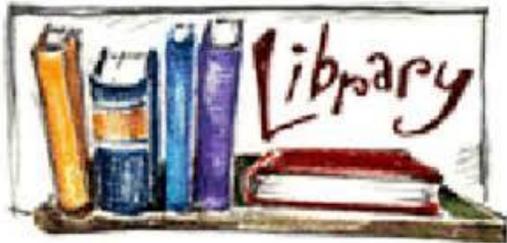
- James Lent.

HARVEST SUPPER

The office hours of the church are 8-12 Wednesday and Thursday. Our church administrator, Susan Lombardo, will be available to help with anything you need. If you send something to the office on other days, just be aware she might not be able to get to it until she works again.



CHURCH LIBRARY



I was asked how somebody was to check out a book from the library. In each book and on each video tape is a card, all you have to do is write your name and the date on the card and then leave it in the box on the table in the library. For your convenience the check-out procedure is written on a yellow piece of paper on the wall by the library door. I hope you come by after

The harvest supper was the first Sunday in November and it was a big success this year. Many of us cooked turkeys, donated produce, made pies and gave time to prepare and serve this great meal. The hall was decorated beautifully by Caring and Sharing. This year around 85 members and loved ones came together in fellowship. Below Eric Overlock lights the burners to the serving pans. In the kitchen is Karen Welch, Susie Overlock and Robin Quinn.

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HOLLY BERRY CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year on Saturday, November 23rd, Caring and Sharing and The ladies Circle joined to put on our annual Christmas fair. We had a cookie table that had some great looking cookies on it. Thanks to all that cooked cookies. There was also some creative Christmas center pieces for sale, knit goods, books, crafts and a variety of newer items. Our bake sale always brings in a crowd with all the wonderful items donated by all of you. Thanks! We had Grandma's attic upstairs along with a turkey luncheon with our famous indian pudding with ice cream for dessert. Everyone who volunteered their labors of love and time has made this fair success and many thanks and blessing goes out to you all.

Luncheon upstairs. I see lots of our members!



Kitchen help. (left to right) Becky Ruggieri, Susan Lombardo, Margaret Damewood and Janet Andrews.

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With a very grateful heart!
Patty Ott, President of The Ladies Circle



Please consider this a huge THANK YOU to all the ladies and gentlemen who helped with the church suppers and fundraisers. We could not accomplish this without your support. You helped us to be able to have countertops in the kitchen resurfaced maintaining the slate roof tiles, helped with church repairs, assisted individuals with emergency situations, purchased the bulletin inserts and contributed to fellowship coffee, creamers and paper goods, purchased the vacuum cleaner and provided 22 Easter fruit baskets to shut-ins. Our church's Holly Berry Fair that was held on November 23rd earned over \$1,400. This can only happen with all the folks in our church family participating. We are truly blessed with the wonderful congregation and a town that also supports us. I wish for you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see you all at the annual meeting in January. We need all of our members to come and support our Trustees, Deacons, Sunday school, Ladies Circle, Caring and Sharing Sisters and the church council. All of the groups welcome you to join them. Please keep our church committee members and church officers in your prayers.

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE BY LADIES CIRCLE



Thanks to everyone who donated items for the raffle bags and to the people who donated money to buy items for the bags as well. Jency Andrews was the big winner with two bags going to her. The following is a list of people who won the bags.

Kitchen bag: Nancy Bryant

Emergency bag: Hope Creighton

Beverage bag: Diane Mazzeo

Girl bag: Peggy Libby

The movie and boy bags went to Jancy.

Thanks again to everyone who donated to Lady's circle. Linda

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A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY CAKE

From Becky's Mom to be enjoyed by all of us.



Happy Birthday Becky!



A gift of kindness from the Caring and Sharing sisters to Paul Andrews.

HOLIDAY GREETING!



Have a wonderful time with your family and friends this season. Making memories is what the holiday season is for, so treasure each person in your life. And remember, there is always something to be thankful for. May all of your days be blessed. Merry Christmas from the Caring & Sharing Sisters

BENEFIT SUPPER



Roast pork and all the fixins
Saturday, December 7th, 2019
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Masonic Hall, Route 90, Warren
To benefit Bread for the Journey
Food Pantry of Warren
Monetary donations accepted
Sponsored by
Warren Square & Compass Club

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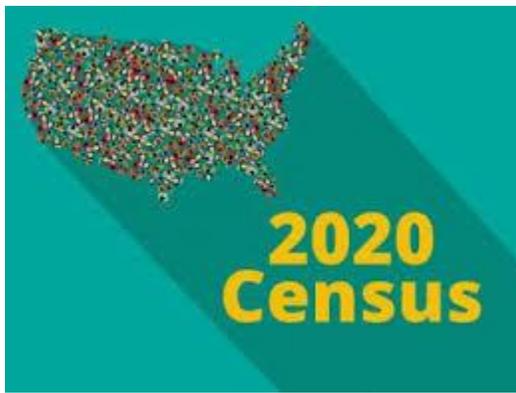
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23RD ANNUAL LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CHOIR



A performance of "International Carol Suites" under the direction of Leticia vanVuuren, will be held: Friday-December 6th, Saturday-December 7th and Sunday, December 8th at the Thomaston Baptist Church. Donations appreciated.



The U.S. Census is looking for workers and asked me to post some info on our bulletin board. You can apply on line at 2020census.gov/jobs. The pay is \$17.50 an hour, mileage is \$0.58 a mile, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training.