

SECONCH

Second Congregational Church UCC, P.O. Box 164, 205 Main Street, Norway, ME 04268

(207) 743-2290 ~ e-mail: seconch@megalink.net ~ website: seconch.com

NOVEMBER 2021 ~ WORSHIP ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ CHILDCARE **SUNDAYS AT 10 AM**

MESSAGE FROM REV SARA

The Salem Covenant of 1629

We Covenant with the Lord and one with another; and do beyond ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his ways, according as he is pleased to reveal himself unto us in his Blessed word of truth.

The Salem Covenant was written by our ancestors of faith, the Puritans. When these early English people gathered to create their community in what is now the North Shore of Greater Boston, they decided that they would not be ruled or commanded by a hierarchy of faith. Rather they would live in an understanding that they were only as cohesive as their ability to live in faith together, and to work in collaborative relationship.

As time has gone on, this type of Congregational polity (a/k/a “no one tells our church what to do”), has weaved through UCC churches as well as through our faith cousins. Unitarians and Universalists. As time has gone on, the way church members live in faith together has changed. We no longer charge money for pews, community taxes do not support our churches, and worship no longer is a daylong event. As church

continues beyond our lifetime, our descendants too will see changes.

What remains, and will remain for the future: our churches are only as cohesive as our ability to live in faith, and work in collaborative relationship. This can be hard, yes, but the rewards are...well...divine! And this is where I lift up the following: **those who live together in faith, and who work at collaborative relationship are always fulltime ministry churches.** Sometimes they have full time ordained pastors, other times they have part time ordained pastors.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

As I sit and write this article, it is a damp, dark, drizzly day. Many of the leaves have fallen from the trees around our home and all the beautiful colors of fall are fading away. Even though we are a day away from November – the sky sure says “November” to me! We have had a beautiful fall, but mother nature is making her changes known with cooler days, , darkness coming earlier, having to turn on the heat at home and how 50 degrees feels so much different in November then it does in the springtime!

Every year when November arrives it is also a time for us to stop and take the time to reflect and be thankful. As we move into the time to pull down the storm windows, haul out the sweat shirts, flannel shirts and sweaters, and think “it’s soup season”, I suggest that we should take this time to be thankful for all the things that have been a part of our church this past year. So here are a few things that have come to my mind as I write this. We can be thankful for how God has taken care of us over this past year. As we transitioned from a full time minister to a part time minister we had Rev. Sharon Rankin come and help us through the first 6 months. While we were not meeting in the sanctuary at that time, Sharon helped us via our taped services and guiding us through the search process to finding Rev. Sara Bartlett. We are also thankful for all our members who covered those weeks of transition until Sara started and their services were wonderful. We are thankful that God led us to Rev. Sara Bartlett, who arrived on September 1st and has brought her gifts to share with us.

We can also be thankful for each other, for the continued support of the church with faithful pledges and donations that have allowed us to continue to “Be the Church” in different ways. Thankfulness continues for our ability to work together to keep ourselves and each other safe and that we have managed to keep covid illness away from our church family. While we all would like nothing better than to not have to wear masks, we can be thankful that we support the safety protocols that have been put in place and

wear our masks appropriately while we are together.

We are also thankful to our staff and members who help us keep our church going each and every week. It is all those little things that get done behind the scenes – the music, flowers, bulletins, repairs, planning and implementing fundraisers, mowing the lawn, overseeing our missions and children and youth programs and we can’t forget all that technology stuff!

I am sure I have missed some things, so what are you thankful for regarding our church? I am thankful for all of you! Thanks for being a part of my church family!

Blessings to you all!

Pam Davison, Moderator

Set your clocks back!

Don’t forget to set your clocks back so that you don’t miss Sunday, November 7th’s service!

Drive-Thru Free Supper

We had a fabulous turnout for October’s drive-thru free supper. The BBQ Ribs were a big hit! Our next free supper will be Friday, November 19th starting at 5:00 p.m. until the food is gone. The menu will be turkey casserole, potato, veggie and homemade cookies for dessert. A vegetarian option will be available as well. We appreciate the crew that comes and joins us and will miss our snowbirds, Ray & Charlotte Snedeker! Helpers are always welcome!

Indoor Yard Sale:

We had another successful indoor yard sale in October and raised \$2,761.40! Since April our yard sales have raised a total of \$17,195.25! Our Oxford Hills Community is so generous with all the items they have donated. Our final yard sale for this season will be Saturday, November 6 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This is a clearance sale and we have marked down larger items and will offer a bag to those entering that they can fill for \$5.00!

We have lots of items for decorating your home or apartment, linens, lots of children items, dishes, lamps, all kinds of furniture and many more items! Our goal is to clear the main dining area so that we can welcome AA back into that space. Because of colder weather we will no longer be able to keep doors and windows open as we have done for all of our sales. We will determine if we will be able to open up the ell and the thrift shop this winter for smaller sales depending on what is going on with Covid and safety processes. The donations keep coming and the barn is full. We will have plenty of inventory once we can open for new sales in the future.

Fundraisers:

As you know, our budget has had a challenge piece for the last few years. Between the yard sales and other fundraisers such as online auction, the drive-thru lobster roll luncheon and the drive-thru pancake breakfast we have been able to meet our goal! We have raised a combined \$20,577.25! This is great news!

Church Membership:

Rev. Sara Bartlett is transferring her membership to our church. We are in the process of planning the service to welcome her into our church family and would like to know if there are others that would like to become a member at the same time. If you would like to join our church, please reach out to Rev. Sara, Pam Davison or Debbie Fickett. Let us know if you have any questions about this process.

Budget/Annual Meeting:

This is a busy time of the year with the holidays coming and building our budget for 2022. Please submit budget requests to the Trustees as soon as possible. The Trustees will be submitting the draft of the budget to Church Council for approval at the December meeting. **Our Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 23, 2022.** Please put this in your calendar and plan to attend.

Can you help?

Have you noticed that the same Deacons seem to be working each Sunday? Our Deacons committee could really use some help. Actually, they are not the only ones. Trustees, Spiritual Life, Child & Family, the choir, Missions etc. would also welcome some help. We have had people who have served for many years make the decision to step off of the committees/teams they have been serving. Do you have some time that you can help? Have some skills that you can share? Some new ideas that can help us move into the future? Please reach out to any of these groups, Pam Davison or Rev.

Sara Bartlett if you have questions or would like to help.

Invitation to knitters!

We are in need of knitted prayer squares, winter hats, scarves, and/or mittens. Perhaps one (or more) of these projects will interest you!

The prayer squares will be available to be given to someone during a time of need, as a reminder of God's presence and comfort. The hats, mittens, and scarves will be distributed locally to provide winter warmth to those who need it most.

Patterns for the prayer squares are available on the lower shelf of the table at the top of the church ramp. Basic hat and mitten patterns are also available.

Feel free to use your own yarn, or, there is yarn on the shelf available for you to use.

Thank you for sharing your talent and time, and for being a part of this knitting ministry. Completed items can be dropped off at the church. Contact Susan Prindall if you would like the patterns emailed to you, or to learn more 508-930-3234 or syprindall@gmail.com .

MISSION COMMITTEE

SAFE PASSAGE: The Mission Committee is pleased to share that \$200 in "FOUND MONEY" was donated for Safe Passage during the special offering in September. We appreciate the effort of members of our church family to support

this international mission project and look forward to finding more "FOUND MONEY" during the coming year. Thank you.

The Missions Committee is once again gearing up to distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families in the Oxford Hills. We are again working with the Oxford Hills School District to provide baskets to 10 families at the Rowe School in Norway and 10 families at the Paris Elementary School. We are collecting nonperishable items, including stovetop stuffing, canned vegetables (corn, peas, and green beans), cranberry sauce, gravy, potatoes, squash and apples. The area group, FORE a Cause, is generously donating \$25 gift cards to all the baskets that will be distributed throughout the school district so that families may purchase their own turkeys and other perishables. We are also accepting cash/check donations.


Food may be dropped at the Church on Sunday mornings, Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm, or Saturday, November 6 from 9 am to 2 pm during the yard sale. Checks, noting Thanksgiving baskets in the memo line, may be mailed or dropped off at the Church. **All donations are due by Sunday, November 14.** If you have any questions, you can leave a message at the Church, (207) 743-2290.


The Missions Committee thanks you for your continued support and generosity.

Musical Notes

The vocal choir and the English hand bell choir are already preparing for Christmas. Both hand bell rehearsals and vocal rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings. Performers wear masks at rehearsals and performances. If you are interested in ringing and or singing, please call the church office (207)743-2290 and leave a voice mail with your name and phone number.

On Sunday, November 20, 2021, after worship, all members, friends and family are invited to help dress the sanctuary for the beginning of Advent on November 28, 2021. Inside the sanctuary, we will be putting up, lighting and decorating the annual

Mable Brown Christmas tree  .
We will also be hanging large wreaths

 on the organ pipes. Outside the church, we will be hanging wreaths on exterior doors, putting lights and evergreen roping on the stable, stabilizing and lighting two outside Christmas trees for the stable, lighting outside bushes, hanging the giant wreath on the side of the church and setting spotlight timers.

Mark your calendar for our second annual Live Nativity on Saturday, December 18, 2021. On Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 10 a.m., the worship service will be filled with wonderful Christmas music.

Second Congregation Church – Annual Wreath Sale during Christmas Parade

Beautiful handmade balsam Christmas wreaths, \$15.00 each, will be sold on Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the Second Congregational Church, UCC, 205 Main Street, Norway, Maine. All proceeds will benefit the many missions of the Second Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We encourage you to pre-order a wreath, by contacting the church office at 207-743-2290 or e-mailing: seconch@megalink.net. Or, Please come early and choose your wreath while the selection is abundant.

This is our final fundraiser for 2021. Annie and Keith Tilsley will cut very fresh greens and create beautiful wreaths for our sale.

Volunteers are needed to set up and sell the wreaths. Please contact Kate Wood at 743-7124 or btwood@megalink.net.

PRESS RELEASE: **Could There Be a Better Time for Warm Mittens, Hats, and Scarves?**

From: Second Congregational Church, UCC, P.O. Box 164, Norway, Maine 04268, 207-743-2290

The Second Congregational Church, UCC, 205 Main St., Norway, Maine is

requesting help in expanding its Mitten Mission.

For over 50 years, a small group of dedicated members and friends of the Second Congregational Church, UCC, 205 Main St., Norway, Maine knit mittens, hats and scarves for children in the Oxford Hills school district to use on cold winter days. This year, we are requesting the community's help in expanding this long standing tradition. New-store-bought, clean-gently-used, and hand-knit mittens, scarves and hats of all sizes are needed and may be dropped off at the church.

During December, the mittens will decorate the Sanctuary-Mable Brown Christmas tree. Then in early January, mittens, hats and scarves will be given to the local elementary schools, preschools, middle School, and high School. For more information, please call the church office at 207-743-2290.



NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

The season is changing, and the Board of Trustees is getting prepared. The furnaces in the church and parsonage have been serviced. We have firmed up our plans for snow removal. The gutters and new siding on both sides of the ramp entrance should prevent any further damage from wet weather. We have purchased air purifiers for indoor spaces, and will be re-

evaluating how we ventilate the sanctuary for worship services.

The indoor yard sales have been such successful fund raisers for the church, raising over \$14,000 for church operations this year. Now it is time to let community groups meet again within the church. Our crew will be working on this following this weekend's CLEARANCE SALE, which we hope will live up to its name.

It is also time to develop a budget for next year, and to contact you regarding your support of the church in the coming year. The Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committee will be working on these necessary tasks.

Pastor Sarah has asked that we consider how her office can be made more accessible, and we will look into this as part of our ongoing efforts to make our whole building more accessible.

We continue to look at how we can have an effective online presence for those joining our worship services from home. We appreciate feedback and suggestions on this topic. We thank Keith Tilsley and Jeremiah Bartlett for helping out as our video volunteers. If you would like to be trained as a video volunteer, let us know.

John Ellis, Chairperson

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Church Council

Moderator, Pam Davison

Collector, Carolyn Baker

Treasurer, Jane Munn

Clerk, Susan Prindall

Shirli Allen Heald, Deb Ladner,
Mary-Jane Robichaud, John Ellis,
Deb Fickett, Linda Porter (member
at large)

Trustees

Deb Ladner, Keith Ladner, Foster
Shibles, Buck Gouin, Melissa
Wood, John Ellis, Randy Butters.

Spiritual Life & Leadership

Shirli-Allen Heald, Christina
Bigelow, Mary-Jane Robichaud,
Mickie Shibles, Melissa Wood

Deacons

Robert & Debbie Fickett, Laura
Gouin, Mary-Jane Robichaud,
Mary Gatchell, Christina Bigelow,
Michele Johnson, Jon Ladd.

Mission Committee

Mickie Shibles, Linda Porter, Jane
Munn, Bruce Davison, Trudy
Brown.

Youth and Family Team

Melissa Wood, Annie Tilsley

Stewardship

Deb Ladner, John Ellis, Jean
Saunders, Dave Porter

Church Staff

Minister: Rev. Sara Bartlett

Director of Music: Shirli Allen Heald

Organist/Pianist: Elaine Emery, Ed
Baldrige

Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. to noon
or by appointment.

5TH Buck Gouin
23rd Alan Hatch
27th Trudy Brown
27th Ed Deegan
29th Robert Story
30th Victoria Rogers

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



7th Rev. Dan & Laura Johnson
20th Bob & Debbie Fickett

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



**Jon Ladd and family on the loss
of his mother, the family of
Nancy Bonney, Judy and Tere
Porter, Zachary (Judy and Tere
Porter's grandson), Martha
Farrington, Helen Heath, David Porter,
John Higgins, Jane Munn, and P.J.
Allen.**