

SECONCH

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

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SEPTEMBER 2022 ~ WORSHIP ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ CHILDCARE **SUNDAYS AT 10 AM**

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SARA

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

Where is God in the midst of all the hard stuff in our lives, and in the lives of other human beings in this world? This is a common, and I would say understandable, question Christians ask ourselves.

There are many theological conversations and understandings around the suffering and pain experienced by humankind, and there many ways in which we as humans respond. I lift up one way we can respond is to invite space for God to be in relationship with us during our worship.

During this hour or so, what would it feel like to be vulnerable and ask God to hold our hurts for us? Or even more vulnerable, what would it be like to ask our fellow Christians to hold our wounds with us as we fill ourselves with God’s love?

During this sacred hour of vulnerability, we are invited to hand over our hurts, clear space in our souls and experience God in a variety of ways. Maybe it can be a scripture reading, or a hymn, the anthem, the message for all ages, the

sermon, sharing a joy/ concern, or the Lord’s prayer in a way most comfortable for you. Whatever ways you are willing to be vulnerable, I invite folks to open themselves even more to where God can be of comfort to you. We never know where we will feel God in the midst of our hard stuff!

Save the date!

All Church Congregational Meeting on Sunday September 25 after worship. Join together outdoors under the tents for a pot luck luncheon at 11am, followed by an all church meeting.

Discussion items include updates on church projects, committees, and programs. Learn about volunteer ministry opportunities. Hear more from Pastor Sara about small group gatherings being offered this fall, for the purpose of reflecting on our church ministries and imagining our future.

Bring a dish to share if you wish, and bring yourself!

Thank you for your continued financial support!

We appreciate your continued support by sending in your pledge or contributions to our church. Your faithful contributions help us to pay our staff, keep the heat, water, internet and telephone functioning and our other expenses for our two buildings. We couldn’t do it without your continued support!

Drive Thru Free Supper

We had a very busy Free Supper in August and gave out 115 meals! We will be serving our September meal on the third Friday of the month.

TRUSTEE NEWS

We continue to work on the floor issue and will update you all at the Church meeting on the 25th.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who contributed school supplies over the summer. We delivered six filled school bags as well as a boxful of additional supplies to Rowe School. Two of the bags were filled with extra items and given to the students whose apartment burned last month. In September, our focus is Safe Passage, an organization in Guatemala City that serves over 500 students in PreK-9th grade, as well as approximately 300 families in the impoverished community surrounding the city garbage dump. In the past, we have held a special collection of “found money” the last Sunday in September. This year, we are designating Safe Passages as the recipient of any money placed in the missions jar the entire month. The jar has been moved next to the collection plates as you enter the sanctuary. We appreciate your support as we focus on the world outside of the Oxford Hills for our monthly mission.



Musical Notes

The Second Congregational Church, UCC choir will resume rehearsing every Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. on September 8, 2022. They will be back in the loft on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Sunday warmups and rehearsal begin at 9 a.m. All voices are welcome and no experience is needed. If you are interested in singing, please contact Shirli Allen Heald at 207-743-7047.

CHILDREN'S THEATER RETURNS

Children and youth, ages 7 and up are invited to register for Community Children's Theatre at the Second Congregational church. At this time eight have registered and there is room for a few more. If you plan to register your child, please email: 2ndcongomusic@gmail.com, or call the church office 207-743-2290. Beginning September 7, 2022, through November, rehearsals will be held each Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 PM at the church. Start time will align with actual dismissal from Rowe School. Thanks to the continued support of the church, there is no cost for participation. Children and their families, however, will need to be dedicated to the theatre production and faithful in attendance. Shirli Allen-Heald of Norway and production assistant, Kate Wood of Otisfield, are excited to restart this popular community program. Ms Allen, local performer, music director of the Second Congregational Church, and owner/ teacher at The Growing Place Day School states, “After a long pandemic pause, we are looking forward to making new friends, having fun, exploring performance activities, and putting on a show.” For more information, email 2ndcongomusic@gmail.com or call Shirli Allen at 207-743-7047

Church Council

Collector, Carolyn Baker
Treasurer, Jane Munn
Clerk, Susan Prindall
Shirli Allen Heald, Deb Ladner,
Mary-Jane Robichaud, Deb Fickett,
Linda Porter (member at large)

Trustees

Deb Ladner, Keith Ladner, Foster
Shibles, Melissa Wood, Keith
Tilsley, Kate Wood, and Randy
Butters.

Spiritual Life & Leadership

Shirli-Allen Heald, Mary-Jane
Robichaud, Linda Porter, and
Melissa Wood

Deacons

Robert & Debbie Fickett, Mary-
Jane Robichaud, Mary Gatchell,
Michele Johnson, and Jon Ladd.

Mission Committee

Linda Porter, Jane Munn, Rebecca
Schaff, and Trudy Brown.

Youth and Family Team

Melissa Wood, Annie Tilsley

Stewardship

Deb Ladner

Church Staff

Minister: Sara Bartlett
Director of Music: Shirli Allen Heald

Office Hours

Thursday 9 a.m. to noon
or by appointment.

fellowship events like game night and movie
night in a safe, comfortable space.

The decision has been made not to hire a nursery
attendant this fall, but will have a space and
supervision for any infants and toddlers who join
their caregivers for church.

We are always looking for new team members-if
you are interested please let Melissa know!!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



09/10 Gary Howe

09/10 Michael Wood

09/15 Mickie Shibles

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3rd Tom & Megan Arbour

5th Andy & Rhonda Chase

18th Joel & Beth Kane

23rd Chris & Valerie Weston

25th Ben & Amy Brodis

The youth and family team had a great turnout
for vacation bible school this summer. It was
great after so much time apart to have time
together with the younger crowd.

Sunday School will be resuming September
18th! Registration forms are available online or
will be at the church to complete at 9:30 our first
day. Many of you know the basement still is not
ready for Sunday school, so we will start the year
using the parsonage. This will allow us the
space to split into younger and older kids as
necessary, as well as space for planned

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Martha Farrington, Helen Heath,
Jane Munn, and P.J. Allen.