

SECONCH

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

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

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SARA

Happy October all!!

This past week, I was able to attend the Cumberland Fair. The time spent looking farm animals and seeing people I have not seen in a while was not only fun, but relaxing. When I got home and pondering the experience, I realized that the crowds at the fair were quite the collection of human beings! There were folks there wearing jeans and working boots as well as people who had Prada purses. There were families of all shapes, sizes and make up, people with hair colors reflecting the rainbow, and all ages enjoying themselves. It struck me...how often is there a large group of people eating food, being respectful of each other and overall getting along, despite whatever outward differences we may have? No one was yelling at each other or diminishing the divine within another person's soul. I wonder if this is what God has in mind for us...everyone sharing the same

space without treating each other badly?

Of course, just beneath the service there are cracks in the perfection of community. Those who are serving on the mid-way – both the rides and the food – are of a different ethnicity than fair goers, perpetuating racial inequality, and the power struggles between fair organizers crept through the perfection of the community. However, I thought – I, and others, experienced baby steps towards a place where folks are not in broken relationship with each other.

Sometimes baby steps are how a community can learn how to be together with respect and dignity. I lift up that humans continue to learn ways where we respect each other despite our outward differences, and learn to live together in ways that respect the divine in each of us so we can be in right relationship.

Blessings of Love,
Sara

Share the gift of you with others!
Choose a Sunday to be a greeter at
the door
Read scripture for Sunday worship
Volunteer with the thrift shop
Make and/or share food for free
meal

March 17-19th 2023, New England
Women's Celebration, Manchester,
New Hampshire

Saturday October 15th 3pm,
intergenerational fun day! Meet at
Wallingfords to pick apples then
come back to the church building to
make some food and have some
holiday fun!

Saturday October 15th Maine
Conference Annual meeting. 9am.

Oxford Union Association Meeting
October 23rd, 4pm

Sunday October 30th, "All Saints
Day" This day we will honor the
memories and names of those who
have died. Feel free to bring photos
for the window sills and communion
table.

Children's Theater Returns to Second Congregational Church

With twelve theater students, ages 7
to 15-years-old, Shirli and Kate are
working hard every Wednesday
afternoons to create a music filled
production about well-known
children's stories. There will be
singing, dancing, monologues,
costumes, sets, props and maybe a
bit of mayhem. Some members of
the troop have performed with us
before and some are new to theater.
They are all enthusiastic, making
new friends and having fun. Stay
tuned for more information. We
may be asking for your help with
specific costume pieces and props.
At this moment, we anticipate a
show date of Saturday, December 3,
2022.

Musical Notes from the Choir

The "high" notes are that we sound
good a cappella! We rehearse every
Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and we are
having fun! The "off" notes are that
Elaine Emery retired in June and Ed
Baldrige moved away. Shirli and
the entire choir are working on
finding a full-time accompanist.
Jonathan Chatfield will be joining us
as a part time accompanist and
organist. He is a music educator, an
Oberlin graduate and recently
moved from Connecticut to Norway.

During the week, when he is not at school, you may hear him practicing the organ. K.J. Williams will also be joining us occasionally to play hymns. Please give both K.J. and Jonathan a warm welcome. On Sundays, when we do not have an accompanist, we plan to have piano recordings of the Chalice hymnal to play. It is an exciting and challenging time for the choir and the entire congregation as we begin a new path.

Thrift Shoppe News

Our thrift shop is once again open as it was pre-COVID. It is temporarily housed in the Sunday School rooms at the bottom of the ramp while the basement floor saga continues. The shop is filled with new and vintage items, including dishes, glassware, paintings, holiday décor, tools, small appliances, toys, collectibles, and so much more. Items are clean, neatly displayed throughout the rooms and reasonably priced. During our September sale, shoppers were pleased with the new setup and bought over \$800.00 worth of items. On Saturday, October 29, we will have a combination indoor thrift shop sale and outdoor mini-yard sale, under the tents from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We are nearing the end of processing the many donated boxes

and bags from the last two plus years left in the barn: sorting some for the thrift shop, some for the yard sale, and others will be put out for free.

In 2019, church members decided that we were no longer able to stage our once-a-year gigantic yard sale, and the thrift shop concept was born. We are now ready to accept new donations that are suitable for a thrift shop. Some examples are:

something that you might regift, something you once liked, something that is in your cupboard or closet that hasn't been used for a while. We are looking for - clean, gently used items that someone else would love to buy. We are also seeking holiday items for upcoming months. You may drop off items at the barn, through the parking lot door. If you have furniture to donate, please deliver it to the tents on Thursday, 10/27, or Friday, 10/28 (remember the trick-or-treaters on Main St. Friday afternoon). Any items that are not suitable for the thrift shop will be packed away for a small yard sale in the spring.

Thank you for your support. See you on the 29th.

Brief Financial Report-Can we blame it on the basement?

We are not in a dire situation, but our finances reflect a deficit of \$13,000.00 in income versus YTD operating expenses. Pledges are down from last year. Fund raising is down from last year. And as every household has experienced, our oil bill alone is up over \$500.00 per month from last year. We have had to hire a lawyer, because the flooring company sued us in Superior Court for payment in full for the incomplete and dangerous basement floor. We have not been able to use the basement since January, 2021. Is this a dire situation? NO! We have been financially here before. We can pull from investment interest to pay our operating bills. We hope that our members will pay their pledges. We hope that folks will create new fund raisers and support current ones. We will continue with our many missions and keep an optimistic attitude. As the song goes, "God will make a way, where there seems to be no way."

Mable Brown Scholarship Update

Due to the generous donation by Rev. John Ellis of Karen's Longaberger pottery, the Mable Brown Scholarship fund for graduating seniors, now boasts over \$1000.00. There is still more

pottery and it will continue to be available for the fund, in the Thrift Shoppe. Thank you!

MISSION NEWS

Through your donations, we collected \$115 for Safe Passage that will help them continue their services to the people of Guatemala City.

Our monthly mission in October is Neighbors in Need, one of the national UCC's 5 for 5 offerings. NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The Mission Committee has decided that we will donate \$50 to the Neighbors in Need fund. The rest of the money collected this month will be sent to Florida to help the victims of Hurricane Ian, taking a much more concrete meaning of helping our neighbors in need. By the end of the month with Rev. Sara's help, we will announce the specific place where our money will be sent. Donations can be placed in the Mission Jar outside of the sanctuary. Checks can be made out to Second Congregational with Florida relief on the memo line.

Thank you for helping Second Congregational reach out to both our

national and international neighbors
in need.



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, Kate
Wood, Keith Tilsley, and Randy
Butters.

Spiritual Life & Leadership

Shirli-Allen Heald, Mary-Jane
Robichaud, Debbie Fickett and
Melissa Wood

Deacons

Robert & Debbie Fickett, Laura
Gouin, Mary-Jane Robichaud,
Mary Gatchell, Michele Johnson,
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.

10th Jean Saunders
14th Chad Pendexter
19th Charles Munn
22nd Carolyn Baker
22nd Wendy Leighton
28th Deborah Cerny

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

6th Paul & Bethany Allen
7th Bruce & Pam Davison
28th Herbert & Veronica Knight

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Zachary (Judy and Tere Porter's
grandson), Martha Farrington,
Helen Heath, Glen Wood, and P.J. Allen

