

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 2023 ~ WORSHIP ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ CHILDCARE **SUNDAYS AT 10 AM**

MESSAGE FROM REV SARA

It is that time of the year again, where leaves crunch under our feet, frost shows up on our windows, and we start to anticipate Thanksgiving food. This time of the year is also when churches seek pledges for their churches. Pledges are a way in which those who participate in the life of the church are invited to financially support the church. It helps the church keep our lights on, our building warm, pay our staff, and also live into our ministries.

I ask that everyone prayerfully consider your pledges for the 2024 year.....

And Love each other well –

Blessings,
Sara

Missions Committee

The October Mission collection for Neighbors in Need is wrapping up. We will be sending \$50 to the National UCC NIN fund. Any additional funds will be sent to

Lewiston/Auburn to aid families that were affected by last week's tragedy. If you would like to contribute, please indicate L/A on your check or place your donation in the Missions jar.

The Missions Committee is 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, as well as some church families. We are collecting nonperishable items, including Stovetop stuffing, canned vegetables (corn, peas, and green beans), cranberry sauce, gravy (package or jar), potatoes, squash, and apples. The area group, FORE the 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 Sunday mornings, Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm, or Saturday, November 4 from 8:30 am to 11:30*

during the thrift shop 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 19.** The Missions Committee thanks you for your continued support and generosity.

November Free Supper

The drive thru free supper will be held on Friday, November 17 from 5 – 6 p.m. The menu includes turkey/stuffing casserole, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, and apple or pumpkin pie. We are looking for volunteers to help make the slab pies and/or carve turkeys on Thursday, November 16 at 3:30 p.m. No experience is needed. There will be snacks and drinks. We will be packaging meals, starting at 3 p.m. on Friday and serving starts at 5, if you would like to help out. If you would like to donate a turkey or cranberry sauce for the supper, please contact Deb Ladner, Kate Wood, or Linda Porter.

Any nonperishable food that is not needed for the supper or the Thanksgiving baskets will be donated to the Harrison Food Bank as they prepare to feed 700 families for Thanksgiving.

Set your clocks back!

Don't forget to set your clocks back so that you don't miss Sunday, November 5th's service!

Budget/Annual Meeting:

This is a busy time of the year with the holidays coming and building our budget for 2024. 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..

Musical Notes

The vocal choir rehearses at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. There is also a 9 a.m. rehearsal before the Sunday service. All voices are welcome to join! If you have any questions, please call Shirli at 207-743-7047. Bells have resumed their rehearsals at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Emery at elaine90@megalink.net. We appreciate K.J. Williams and Jenna

Nelson for their continued piano support. The choir is very excited because they have begun to accompany some of the choir anthems. The sanctuary pianos have recently been tuned. The organ will be tuned in late November. Elaine Emery will be playing on November 5, during the worship service. She will also be playing December 24th and 31st. We do continue to look for a permanent pianist/ organist. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please have them contact Shirli Allen. Mark your calendars: At 2 p.m., Sunday, December 10, 2023. The vocal choir and the bell choir will be performing at the Nativity Festival at our church.

Second Congregation Church – Annual Wreath Sale during Christmas Parade

Annual Christmas Wreath sale at the Second Congregational Church, Norway, Maine will be held on Saturday, November 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Wreaths, which are made by Annie Tilsley, will be \$20.00 each. Please reserve your wreath by calling the church office 207-743-2290 or come early on the 25th. We frequently sell out. Wreaths have red, burgundy, tartan or buffalo plaid bows. The Thrift Shoppe will also be open that Saturday.

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-Mabel 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 will be serviced. We have firmed up our plans for snow removal. We have discussed once again having our Church services in the Cummings Room during the months of January through the middle of March and then move back into the sanctuary for Easter. This will help with our oil usage.

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.

Thrift Shoppe News

October 31, 2023

There is nothing spooky about this press release. The Thrift Shoppe at the Second Congregational Church, UCC, Norway, Maine had a very successful Grand Opening in its refurbished rooms on Saturday, October 7th. New and returning customers were pleased with the space, the Halloween - Fall décor, and the many new items.

On Saturday, November 4, from 8:30-11:30 a.m., the shop will reopen with Thanksgiving - Christmas theme. Many more gently used and new items have been priced and placed in the shop. Some large items have been added to our inventory: a Cricket machine, water cooler, girl's bicycle, bar stools, electric space heater, 2 large mirrors, and a professional floor buffer and pads. There will be toys, games and stuffed animals for children. We also plan to open the shop on November 25th and again on December 2nd. This is a major fund raiser for the church, and we need items to continually replenish the shop during November and December. Will you donate holiday themed linens: cloth napkins, placemats, dish towels, or table clothes? Do you have special individual tree ornaments to donate? Do you have jewelry: earrings, bracelets, necklaces to donate? Do you have scarves or pocketbooks? Do you have antiques, small tools, pottery, vintage glassware? Do you have seasonal tins or baskets to donate? Will you donate wall hangings or quilts? Do you have new or very gently used toys? Small clean bags of items may be left outside the shop door. The barn is

locked, because we are not accepting large bags or boxes, sporting gear, garden items, etc during the winter. If you have something special to donate, that won't fit in a small bag, please speak with Deb Ladner, Susan Prindall, Linda Porter, Shirli Allen or Kate Wood. Thank you for all your donations! We hope to see you on November 4th. Please tell your friends about our wonderful shop!

Fundraising for Church Sound System:

We are happy to report that the fundraising total for the Sound System is \$5,300.00. The presentation by Melissa at the sound system meeting provided information from one company and a few others have met with another company and we are waiting on a quote from them. The goal is to raise funds to cover the cost without having to utilize our investments. Thank you to those who have provided items for the sales. With colder weather arriving we expect that our next sales will move inside the church. Next sale date to be determined.

Moving from Designated Term Pastor to Settled Pastor – why we

need to complete a new prospectus for the Church?

Questions have been asked about why the church needs to complete a new Prospectus about the church. After all we did one just before hiring Rev. Sara two years ago. Let me provide you with some background information that may help you to understand why we are going through this process. Designated Term Pastors is a new process for the UCC and the UCC has created a process that they are asking churches to use. When searching for a minister in the past each church would need to create a Search Committee, create a lengthy profile of their church describing what they were looking for in a minister, provide history of the church, budget information and information about the community the church where the church is located. Ministerial candidates would need to do the same thing and have state conferences send their profile to churches they would like to talk with while they seek a place to serve. The Search process can be quite lengthy and usually results in a minimum of a year or more to complete. Because of the lack of Interim Minister Candidates and more churches move to part time ministerial needs, the designated

term process was created. Those filling the roles commit to a designated time to serve a church. Many times these candidates have not completed the discernment process for ordination yet and may even come from within their own church as former lay leaders. Our first designated term pastor was Sharon Rankin who was with us for six months. She has since become ordained as is serving her church in Windham. During Sharon's time with us, we were mostly doing online services, taping during the week and posting those services online on Sundays. We did not open the church up for in person services until June – her last month with us. If you remember, after her designated term was up our church worked on a Prospectus for bringing someone else onboard and we covered the pulpit during July and Augustus that summer. We were also in the process of moving from a full time Pastor to a part time Pastor. Church Council served as a substitute “search committee” and created a prospectus of the church regarding what a part time Pastor needs would be for our church. At the time the Maine Conference did not have any candidates for us and were encouraging us to look “inside” for someone interested in

filling our pulpit. Once our Prospectus was completed, we were fortunate in having two people interested in our church. We were fortunate to have Rev. Sara as one of the candidates and we voted to bring her on as our designated 3-year term Pastor. Rev. Sara is now in her third year with us and it is time for her and our church to determine if we should move together to a settled Pastor position.

That brings us to where we are right now. Now that our church has been functioning as a full time church with a part time pastor, it is time to decide what our church will need moving forward. What does our church want a settled part time Pastor to provide for us? Who are we as a church? The impact of Covid and the pandemic has definitely impacted on how we function. What do we want as a church over the next one-to-three years? Rev. Sara is doing the same thing in determining if our church is the right fit for her skills and hopes for her ministry. So this is why we need to complete a new Prospectus. And we need your help to complete this step. Since Sara has been with us for the last two years we do not need to complete the lengthy profile process. However, we do need to

decide on what we want for the future for our church.

The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (PRC) is taking the lead on completing the church's part of this process. We have been working with Sara in determining some questions to help us develop the church's prospectus. We hope you all will participate in sharing your thoughts, wishes and dreams for the future of our church.

Pam Davison, member of PRC

PRC Small Group Discussions:

The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee, (PRC) is hosting small group gatherings in which we can share our thoughts and hopes for our church. Please attend a session and be a part of this important process! We will have sign ups during coffee hour. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Susan Prindall, Debbie Fickett, Jane Munn, Linda Porter, Pam Davison or Rev. Sara Bartlett.

Thursday Nov 9, 10:30am during Tea-ology at church.

Thursday, Nov 9, 6:30pm at church.

Light meal will be served!

Sunday, Nov 12, 11am after worship

These are the questions that we will be discussing:

- 1. During your time worshiping in this church, which aspects of worship have been the most meaningful for you and why?**
- 2. Our church vision states: "In all relationships, we seek to love as Jesus loves us, and treat all with respect, kindness, honesty, and integrity." Where do we see this happening? In what ways can we better live into this?**
- 3. In what ways do you see our church as inclusive, welcoming, open and affirming? Where do we need to improve and grow?**
- 4. We are a full-time Church with a part-time Pastor. How do you feel that this transition to part-time is working? What do you see as priorities for the pastor's time use?**
- 5. As we look to the future, where do you see our church in 1 year? In 3 years?**

Thank you for being part of our church! We value your help in this process!

Stewardship

Please watch for more information about pledging to our Church to help us with our budget.

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your time with your family!

Please send me your birthdays and Anniversary days. I want to make sure I have everyone's information.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



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

Church Council

Moderator, Keith Tilsley
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, Kate Wood, Melissa
Wood, Keith Tilsley Randy Butters.

Spiritual Life & Leadership

Shirli-Allen Heald, Mary-Jane
Robichaud, Melissa Wood

Deacons

Robert & Debbie Fickett, Mary-
Jane Robichaud, Mary Gatchell,

Mission Committee

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

Youth and Family Team

Melissa Wood, Annie Tilsley and
Ella Tilsley

Stewardship

Deb Ladner, Kate Wood

Church Staff

Minister: Rev. Sara Bartlett

Director of Music: Shirli Allen Heald

Organist/Pianist:

Office Hours

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



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**The City of Lewiston, Judy
Porter, Carolyn Baker, Martha
Farrington, Helen Heath, John
Higgins, Jane Munn, and P.J. Allen.**