



SECONCH

*Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Norway, Maine*

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WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAYS @ 10:00 AM

MAY

2025



Greetings from Rev. Sara Bartlet

**"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are
crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18**

May is such a lovely month in Maine. The world around us is blooming colors, and the air is just warm enough to caress our skin. May is also the month when we recognize Memorial Day, a time when we honor those who did not physically come back after war, battles, or otherwise serving the military. Military families also serve in their own ways, all the missed meals, vacations, birthdays and celebrations. The worry for loved ones runs deep in those whose heart travels with their military person.

Last year I spoke of those who physically come back, but who are deeply hurting from orders they followed or life saving decisions they made. Stories

they do not want their families to know, stories which have shaped them and changed them.

These stories are what are referred to as "moral injury". That is, a person's soul is hurting from what they not only saw, but what they participated in while they served. Those who experience moral injury are in deep pain, many feeling alone and perhaps even feel unlovable. It is a unique form of post traumatic stress, and is too often overlooked.

So this Memorial Day (and any other day), lets hold special prayers for those who come back in their physical body, but who are suffering from moral injury. May they know God was with them, may they know God remains with them in their suffering, and may they find the help and resources which move them towards healing, albeit, healing with deep scars.

Peace,

Sara

News from Youth and Family

Sunday School Calendar



If you have any perennials that you would like to share with our youths please let them know and they can help with the digging and repotting.

Watch for details for the June sale!

News from the Trustees

Thanks for always being the 1st to send in your reports!!!



Sound System:

The Sound System project has been completed! We have purchased 2 wireless microphones and have had them programmed into the system.

Now for the system to work as intended we ask that if you have announcements or something to share that you either come forward and use the wireless microphones or wait for a Deacon to bring you one. This allows all present to be able to hear clearly and for those joining us from home to be able to share in any news you are presenting. It is helpful if you do not come forward to share your news, that you state who you are so that those watching from home know who is talking if you are off camera.

Congregational Meeting:

We had a very successful congregational meeting on April 12th. Our discussion about “what to do with the parsonage” was productive and people listened and shared their thoughts about what the best step should be for our congregation. The majority supported selling the parsonage and we are in the process of taking the next steps in that process. The Trustees have reached out to two realtors in the area and they will be pulling together information that will be shared with the Trustees and Church Council about what they can do to help us with the sale. A decision will be made regarding who to contract with and we will begin the process.

A survey of the property will need to be done and a new deed created separating the property from the church. We will need to empty out the parsonage, shed and barn and determine what we no longer need and what to keep. A meeting will be held soon with members of the Thrift shop committee, Youth and Family, Church Council and Trustees to determine

what to do with those items. Watch for more news as we move forward and we welcome any help along the way with this project!

Dates to Remember

Thrift Shoppe is open the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30 am

Trustees is the 2nd Tuesday of the month 6:30 pm

4H is the 3rd Sunday of the month 1:00-3:00 pm

Church Council is the 3rd Tuesday of the month 6:30 pm

Drive Thru meals is the 3rd Friday of the month 5:00 pm



Honoring the Past, Building for the Future

**Dear Friends and Members of the Second Congregational Church,
UCC,**

We are excited to share some wonderful news about an important project happening right here at the church – a major renovation of our kitchen! Thanks to generous donations given in loving memory of several of our former members, we have been able to begin a much-needed update to this well-used and well-loved space.

Donations have been made in memory of Jim & Carolyn Baker, John & Karen Ellis, Dave Porter and many members of our former Women's Fellowship.

Our kitchen has been one of the most-used spaces in the church. We have had many memorable events that have involved feeding and providing food for our church family and members of our community. Who can forget the Boiled Dinners and being a part of Claude & Dolly White's crew with people gathering to cut up vegetables with coffee and rolls and special treats from Lilo?!

Were your Mothers, Grandmothers or you involved in all the dinners prepared for our local Kiwanis members each month; fried clam dinners; lobster roll lunches; Mother's Day teas and fashion shows; the church suppers and all those coffee hours?! We started our Free Community Suppers in April 2008 that continued through Covid with drive thru meals and now 16 years later, is still going strong serving 100+ meals each month!

The kitchen is receiving a full makeover!

- **New cabinets to improve storage and functionality**
- **A poured floor for durability and safety**
- **Upgraded electrical work to bring everything up to code**
- **Redone plumbing to support our growing needs**
- **New lighting and ceiling to brighten the space and make it more welcoming**
- **New Electric stoves to replace the old Garland gas stove**

This kitchen has served us well for countless meals, fundraisers, coffee hours, and fellowship gathering – and with these updates, it

will be ready to serve many more years to come. This project is not only about improving our facilities – it's about honoring the memory of those who helped build our community and ensuring that future generations have a space to gather, serve and celebrate together. Utilizing the donations we have received so far, we have been able to remove the steep stairs that led up to the back hallway outside the sanctuary. This has allowed us to install electrical work for the new location of the refrigerator and created a closet upstairs for our bell choir equipment. We have removed the wall between the kitchen and dining room and installed a solid wall with more outlets. We plan on things in the kitchen and everything listed above has been paid for as we have been moving forward with this project. Our donated funds are pretty much depleted.

We are now at the fundraising stage so we can complete this project. To help with covering the cost of plumbing work, cabinets, countertops and more electrical work, putting new cabinets, pantry cupboards and counter space against that wall. We have widened all doors leading into the kitchen to allow for handicapped access. We have installed a wall by the stoves to block off the blower for the organ and installed 2 new electric stoves. Electrical work has been completed for the wall around the sinks and dishwasher. We have enlarged the “pass out” window on the ell side of the dining room and have installed the poured floor in the kitchen. We have also installed a new breaker panel that ensures that we will no longer blow circuit breakers for the kitchen! Thanks to help from church members we have handled all the demolition of the kitchen. We have some fundraising activities being planned.

- **A ticket Auction – seeking items**
- **A Gift Card prize calendar**
- **Breakfasts, Dinners and Bake Sales**
- **Our unique “Adopt-a-Cabinet” campaign**
- **Bruce Davison will be making some items from the salvaged wood from the kitchen that will be for sale as well.**

We would love for you to get involved in completing this meaningful project! If you would like to help with one of our events, donate a prize, attend a meal, or “adopt” a cabinet, please reach out to us.

Every contribution – big or small- from you or in memory of someone you love who was involved in any of the activities that was created in our kitchen, helps us bring this vision to life.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity as we work together to honor those who before us and for all the Second Congregational Church has been a part of in our community. May this renovated kitchen space be used to create more special memories and help our community now and in the future.

With Gratitude,

The Kitchen Renovation Committee:

Deb & Keith Ladner, Linda Porter, Keith & Annie Tilsley, Brian Partridge, Pam & Bruce Davison, Randy Butters

News from the Music Committee



Thank-you for the gift of Music.

News from the Deacons



"I will look after you and I will look after anybody you say needs to be looked after, any way you say. I am here, I brought my whole self to you. I am your mother."

~ Maya Angelou

Birthdays

- 1 Erik Munn
- 2 Pam Williams
- 6 Eric Belcher
- 10 Helen Heath
- 13 Keith Landner
- 16 Glenn Wood
- 18 Jody Deegan
- 19 Laura Gouin
- 19 Alexander Wood
- 21 Paul Allen
- 27 Caitin Shibbles Bushnell
- 31 Marcus Hatch



Thrift Shoppe

The Thrift Shoppe at the Norway Congregational Church, Main St., Norway, Maine, will be open **Saturday, May 3, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** The Thrifty Shoppe ladies will gladly accept donations during the Shoppe hours (9-11 a.m.). Their discerning shoppers are always looking for new and gently used toys, jewelry, pocketbooks, vintage items (including tools and bottles), kitchenware, linens and furniture.

Free Suppers Updates



The next free supper is Friday, May 15. The menu is Mac and cheese and/or chili, while supplies last. We'll also be serving veggie sticks with dressing, corn muffins and dessert. Baked goods are always appreciated and can be dropped off at church between noon and 4 on Friday. If you would like to help with packaging and serving, please come anytime after 2:30.

News from the Mission Committee

We continue to collect kid friendly food including individual servings of snacks. Thank you for your continued support to help feed the Oxford Hills community.



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Faith Reflections will meet Thursdays; 11:15 for fellowship and sharing. 12:00 for Faith Reflection Study time. All are Welcome!



We are an Open and Affirming Church.

Approved by the Congregational vote October 2009

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are WELCOME here”



Please have your articles in by the 25th of the month for the next Newsletter
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