

WEEKLY NEWS - September 4, 2024

North Yarmouth Congregational Church, UCC

Congregational Meeting This Sunday



Please keep the following people in your prayers

Sheila Babcock, Pet Pantry Patron

David and Michelle Bickford

Terri Bickford

Candy Burgess

Carol Davis

Louisa and Karl Gerstenberger

Sandra & Vince Golonka

Nolan, Soph and Zeb Green

Blanche Mays

Steve Quentel, Lori Martin

& Kaitlin Quentel

Rey and Ellen Medrano

Susanellen Stearns

Cindy & Bill Tompson

Nancy White

To the Members and Officers of the North Yarmouth Congregational Church:

There will be a congregational meeting of the North Yarmouth Congregational Church on Sunday, September 8, 2024, following the morning worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear information on and discuss the circumstances surrounding the testing for asbestos in the church, how to be supportive of the daycare, our obligations to the community in terms of transparency and public safety, and the actions of the church moving forward, as well as any other issue that may legally come before this meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn H. Whittier, Clerk

From the Office

Worship will return to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 15.

Help fill the Grocery Cart in the Gathering Space

The Grocery Cart in the Gathering Space has been the collection spot for much needed food for our neighbors. Communion Sunday has been our Sunday for food collection, but additions to the cart are welcome at all times. The last cartful of food was delivered to the Community Food Pantry in Cumberland where they are now helping over 90 families every other week.

Thank you for your generosity. You are helping many families in our area put food on the table.

From Pastor Zeb

Dear Beloveds of God,

I am holding you all deeply in my heart and prayers this week.

Last night we hosted a town hall and public apology with the community, our tenants, and the families of the daycare. We heard frustrations and we heard opportunities to rebuild trust. I truly believe that we are forging ahead in a path of transparency and reconciliation. I believe in us, the people of the church, and our faith. We have been given an opportunity to learn, reflect, and grow. I see us taking those steps.

I want to thank everyone for their work, diligence, and care over the last few weeks. I know feelings have been hurt and questions have come. I am here to speak with you and to hold you in prayer. Please know that my door is open to you.

I hope to see you at the Congregational meeting on Sunday after church, where we will update everyone fully on the situation and discern our next steps together.

Our scripture readings for Sunday are from the Epistle of James 2:1-17 and the Gospel of Mark 7:24-37. We will look at holding the community together without partialism or favoritism in the call to be one united church body and how Christians have struggled with those concepts since the beginning of our faith.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Zeb

September Meetings

Tuesday Gals meet at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Club meets on the third Saturday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at Toddy Brook

Pet Place Pantry is open on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Faith Formation - Sunday, September 8 - following worship

Trustees - Tuesday, September 10 at 7pm

Council - Sunday, September 15 - following worship

Missions - Monday, September 16, 6:30pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09>

New Members Meeting - Sunday, September 22 - following worship

A LABOR DAY VISIT TO POSTOFFICE PARK

Because of crazy schedules etc. Caroline and I ended up taking our clothing and lunches to town on Monday. It was a perfect day weather wise and we were sure the park would be where our "friends" would be hanging out. Normally we would not even be able to get set up before we would be inundated with folks eager for a tasty lunch and a clean article of clothing. This did not happen. A couple of young men....one of them needed a belt so badly!....pitched in and helped Caroline sort clothing and get the lunches and drinks organized. They were very sweet and very talkative and they did a good job helping Caroline. By this time I realized that folks were not coming to our table, so I went to them to let them know what was available. There was no immediate hurry to move.

In my opinion there is a noticeable difference in the situation surrounding the unhoused folks in Portland. Some positive differences, i.e., more housing available, more meals going out to folks, easing up on the rules for getting into shelters, and more services. On the negative side, I think the drug usage is huge. I know next to nothing about drugs, and when I see these folks "shooting up" (did I use the right lingo?) in front of me, it is so upsetting. There is so much more to this situation that we do not understand, but it was really different to end up having to deliver the last 2 lunches because they didn't come to us.

We will continue to serve these folks, and will be looking to doing it in a way that best serves them. We are blessed beyond words that NYCC is so supportive of this ministry. We cleared our shelves of warm weather clothing, so winter socks, hats, and gloves would help a lot....oh ! and we always can use sweet goodies, especially peanut butter cups, for the lunch bags!

With so much appreciation,
Caroline and Jeanne

~ September 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting	2 Labor Day Labor Day-Office Closed	3 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 10:45a Bylaws Committee Mtg 6p Paley's Men's Group	4 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	5	6	7
8 9:30a Worship 10:30a Congregational Mtg 11a Faith Formation	9	10 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 7p Trustees	11 Patriot Day 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	12	13	14 9a Pet Place Pantry
15 8:30a Choir 9:30a Worship Rev. Paul Day 11a Council	16 6:30p Mission Meeting (Via Zoom)	17 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 10:45a Bylaws Committee Mtg 6p Paley's Men's Group	18 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	19	20	21 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook)
22 8:30a Choir Homecoming Sunday 9:30a Worship	23	24 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	25 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	26	27	28
29 8:30a Choir 9:30a Worship 5p Youth Group	30	Pastor Zeb will be on vacation from 9/9-9/15.				