

# WEEKLY NEWS - November 26, 2025



*Please keep the following people  
in your prayers*

**Congregation & Community:** Sheila Babcock (Pet Pantry patron), Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Linda Lambrides, Blanche Mays, The Moon Family, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Nancy White

**Wider World:** People recovering from disasters in Texas, No. Carolina, So. California, and elsewhere; Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere.

## From Women's Fellowship

We thank you all for the immense push to set up our holiday fair, and tear it down! To bake & bake & bake! To Knit & Knit & knit! To craft & craft & craft! to serve, and check out and everything it takes to make the fair a success every year.

We could not do it without you. You are all BLESSINGS!

The Tuesday Gals/Women's Fellowship

## Attention All Boards and Committees

As we approach the Advent season and our Annual Meeting in January, the Bylaws Committee would like to remind all boards and committees of the Church to review the new Bylaws and the Standard Operations Manual to see if there are sections that you would like to revise or add to as it pertains to your committees. Any revisions need to be presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting so we can vote on them. Please submit them to Kathy W. by January 4 so she can have them ready for the meeting. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## Advent Luncheon and More!

### Advent Luncheon and Hanging of the Greens

Join us this Sunday, November 30 as we begin the Advent season! We will have a luncheon immediately following the service with soup and lasagna. We would love to have people contribute salads, sides and desserts. After the luncheon, we will decorate the sanctuary together. We hope to see you there!

### Volunteers Needed!

### Interactive Christmas Story

Our Christmas Eve family service will have an interactive Christmas story this year, and we need volunteers! No experience necessary. Some training provided. Sense of humor and joy for Jesus are a must. If interested, please see Amanda Skupin.

### Shed Project

The Trustees will start building the shed on Saturday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m. No construction experience necessary. If you can hold a tool or prop up a wall, we welcome your help. Dress warmly, as the high temp that day is expected to be 36 degrees.

# From the Desk of Pastor Day

## **A Thanksgiving Prayer: We Choose Gratitude**

adapted from **Grateful: The Subversive Power of Giving Thanks**

by Diana Butler Bass

GOD, there are many days we do not feel grateful.

When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world or with our neighbors. When the news is bleak and confusing. When there are threats, injustice, violence, and war.

We struggle to feel grateful.

But this Thanksgiving, we choose gratitude.

We choose to accept life as a gift from you, and as a gift from the unfolding work of all creation. We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe.

We choose to thank our ancestors, those who came before us, for their stories and struggles; we will learn from their mistakes and receive their wise choices as a continuing gift for today.

We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, accepting them for who they are. We are thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand.

We choose to appreciate and care for our neighbors whatever our differences or how much we feel hurt or misunderstood by them.

We choose to open our hearts to those who dwell among us in the shadows of uncertainty and fear, recognizing their full dignity and humanity.

We choose to see the world as our shared commons, our home now and the legacy we will leave for generations to come.

This Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it.

We make this choice of thanks with courage, knowing that it is humbling to say “thank you.”

We open ourselves to your generosity, aware that we live in a circle of gratitude. We all are guests at your table around which gifts are passed and received.

We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table.

We embrace grace, love, and the gifts of life at this table. In this choosing, and in the sharing of this meal. We are strengthened to pass gratitude on to the world.

Thus, with you God, with all those gathered here, and with those at tables far distant, we pledge to make thanks.

We ask you to strengthen us in this resolve.

Here, now, and into the future. Around our family table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth.

We choose thanks. Amen.

## December Meetings

Diaconate - Sunday, December 7 following worship.

Missions - Monday, December 8 at 7pm via Zoom.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09)  
[pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09)

Trustees - Tuesday, December 9 at 6pm.

Council - Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 pm in the Financial Office

Choir - Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and on Sundays from 8:30-9:00am in the sanctuary.

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the Gathering Space

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

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

Tuesday Gals meet at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.

### From the Office

Monday - Thursday  
8:00-12:00 pm

**The Church will be closed on Thursday  
December 27<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday**

### Rentals / Usage Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, December 2  
Cumberland County 4-H Swiners  
Awards Potluck - 5-8:30pm**

**Saturday, December 12  
Birthday Party - 11am-3:00pm**

**Friday, December 26  
Azerbaijan Society of Maine - 5:30-9:30pm**

## Stewardship

The pledge cards for 2026 have been distributed. If you haven't received one, please call the office and Lyn will send you one.

It is important that these pledge cards be returned by Sunday, December 7th so that the Trustees and Council can start to work on the 2026 budget.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Lois Knight at 207-318-0017 or [Lknight52@maine.rr.com](mailto:Lknight52@maine.rr.com)

## Men's Club Fair Items for Sale

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make North Yarmouth Men's Club Booth at the Cumberland Fair a success! We have a few items left over that are for sale at the church. If you would like to purchase anything please come into the church. Checks may be made out to NYCC Men's Club.

Items available:

Soda - Brisk Iced Tea/Mountain Dew - \$1.69 per bottle  
Burgers(Frozen): Case of 60-\$94.00 / 4 burgers - \$6 / 2 burgers \$3. Case can be split up.  
Yellow Cheese slices- 2 ½ lb. - \$7.50.  
Chocolate Chip Cookies(frozen) - \$2 each.

## Greater Freeport Community Chorus

Greater Freeport Community Chorus presents their Holiday concerts with Jesse Myers-Wakeman, Artistic Director, on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm at Meetinghouse Arts, 40 Main St., Freeport, ME and **Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3:00pm at the North Yarmouth Congregational Church, 3 Gray Rd., North Yarmouth, ME.** "A Ceremony of Carols" features Benjamin Britten's titular work along with songs and carols from around the world. The program highlights music from cultures and communities around the world to show how music can help foster peace.

The chorus will be accompanied by Kellie Moody. Admission at the door is \$10 for adults and under 18 free; no online or presale tickets.

Find out more about the chorus at:  
[www.gfccsings.org](http://www.gfccsings.org) or on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/greaterfreeportchorus>



# Advent

Join us this Advent as we prepare for Christmas together with Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am.

Worship Services during Advent feature music by our Sanctuary Choir, the Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Discipleship for All Ages, seasonal carols, Bible reading, prayer and more.

During the service children are dismissed for Sunday School.

Advent begins a new year in the Church Calendar centered on the Gospel of Matthew, which starts with the genealogy of Jesus. Among the 42 men named as Jesus' ancestors, Matthew inserts four remarkable women. Pastor Day's messages will focus on the stories of these women and what we can learn from them.

**Nov. 30 – The First Sunday of Advent –  
Tamar: Holding onto Hope**

**Dec. 7 – The Second Sunday of Advent –  
Rahab: Making Peace**

**Dec. 14 – The Third Sunday of Advent –  
Ruth: Finding Joy**

**Dec. 21 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent –  
Bathsheba: Surprising Love**

**Nativity Display**

**Saturday, Dec. 20, 9:30 am—2:00 pm**

Pastor Day will share his collection of almost 100 nativities from 50 countries around the world. Come and reflect on the deeper meaning of Christmas as you learn the stories behind the Nativity. Light refreshments will be served.

**Christmas Eve Services, Dec. 24**

**5:00 pm –**

**Family Worship Service – Interactive Christmas Story**

**11:00 pm –**

**Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**