

WEEKLY NEWS - December 10, 2025



***Please keep the following people
in your prayers***

Congregation & Community: Sheila Babcock (Pet Pantry patron), Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Jean and Butch Goff, 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.



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.

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.

Interactive Christmas Story

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Day

I have a great admiration for people who are creative with words—especially poets. I admit I am a bit envious of their ability. A particular talent that I appreciate is writing new lyrics for familiar hymn tunes. And one of my favorite contemporary practitioners is Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. She makes it seem so easy but it is not! I know. I have tried. Here is one of her hymns from 2010, based on the Gospel text for this coming Sunday—Matthew 2:1-11.

Are You the One Who Is To Come?

Tune: ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6 ("O Little Town of Bethlehem")

"Are you the one who is to come?" John bravely asked the Lord.
John knew the hope he'd counted on And sought a guiding word.
So Jesus gave this answer: Tell what you hear and see!
Tell John about the sick and poor — How God has set them free!
"Are you the one we're longing for" — The name above all names?
We hear each day a thousand words That make competing claims:
"Buy this and you'll be happy!" "Find meaning here or there!"
But Lord, these other things we seek Lead only to despair.
"Are you the only one we need?" Remind your church anew
That in the midst of sin and greed Our joy is serving you.
In you we still see wonders As peace replaces fear;
You heal the sick, lift up the poor And bring your kingdom here.

Tune: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868 ("O Little Town of Bethlehem")

Text: Copyright © 2010 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

John was in prison but he had heard about Jesus' ministry and sent messengers to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" The question captures the heartfelt longing of Advent—hoping but still unsure, wondering, longing. For while Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, it is also a time of anticipation of our Lord's return to set all things right. As we look at the world around us, we, too, experience a hope, a longing, uncertainty, wondering "How long, O Lord?"

I have a humorous memory associated with this verse as well. I was being presented to a congregation as candidate for their next pastor. The church subscribed to a bulletin service with the cover art keyed to the lectionary texts. The church secretary had opened the wrong package. On the Sunday I preached and led worship this question was prominently blazed on the front of the bulletin: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" I guess the answer was positive since the congregation extended a call and I served with them for thirteen years.

I will be ending my time with you at the end of January. I know you will be blessed by the ministry of another interim as you continue to seek a settled pastor and teacher. But whether it is for a few months or several years, all pastoral ministry is really interim.

Times of pastoral transition can lead to two temptations: One is to look back to a particularly loved pastor or perceived past successful ministry of the church, and seeking to replicate that experience. The Second is to wait until a new pastor comes to engage in outreach and other programs. Sometimes we can give in to both temptations simultaneously.

That leads to the third aspect of Advent. The first is Advent as memory: remembering that Jesus came as Bethlehem's Babe, the Word made flesh. The second is anticipation: looking forward to Christ's return in glory to set all things right. But the third is the reminder that God enters into our world and our lives in every day: being awake and watchful for the many small miracles and presence of God. And then striving to engage in the on-going work of God every day.

Grace & peace, Pastor Paul

December Meetings

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.

Nativity Display Open House

Pastor Day will be sharing his collection of 100 Nativities from 50 countries on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. We would like to have light refreshments – coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, etc. Also there will be activities for children, youth & adults. Invite your friends and neighbors to share the true meaning of Christmas.

From the Office

Monday - Thursday
8:00-12:00 pm

**Rentals / Usage
Fellowship Hall**

**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

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.



Readers Wanted

We are looking for readers & Candle-lighters for the next two Sundays – Dec. 14 & 21 – and Christmas Eve services at 5:00pm & 11:00pm

Please let Pastor Day know if you are willing & able.

Call or text 207 712-9896 or E-mail revpaulday@gmail.com.

Thank you

From Faith Formation

The Christmas tree in the sanctuary could use some help. Faith Formation invites you to bring an ornament from home to hang on the tree during the Advent and Christmas season. The ornaments will be returned to you after Epiphany. There will be a sign up sheet to write your name and description of your ornament to make sure it gets back to you.

Staff Christmas Gifts

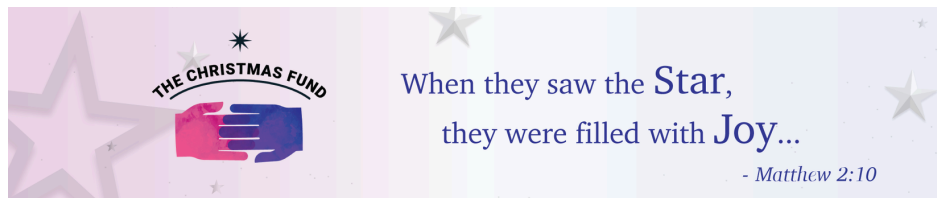
IT IS AGAIN THAT TIME OF YEAR TO BE MERRY AND BRIGHT AND TO SHARE SOME GOOD CHEER WITH NYCC'S IRREPLACEABLE EMPLOYEES: REV. PAUL DAY, OUR INTERIM MINISTER; LYN GLASSOCK, ADMINISTRATOR/BOOKKEEPER; DAVID MYERS-WAKEMAN, MUSIC DIRECTOR; JESS WAKEMAN-MYERS AND PETER DICKSON, ORGANISTS/PIANISTS; MARK HEATH, SEXTON; AND AMANDA SKUPIN, WHO KEEPS THE WALKWAYS AND ENTRANCES SHOVELED DURING THE WINTER.

LOIS KNIGHT AND I WILL BE COLLECTING FROM NOW UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 22ND. THESE GIFTS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE FAMILY SERVICE AT 5:00 ON CHRISTMAS EVE. PLEASE CALL ME AT 207-829-5940(H) OR 207-653-1966(C) OR LOIS AT 207-829-6164(H) OR 207-318-0017(C). IF YOU CANNOT REACH EITHER ME OR LOIS, YOU MAY DROP OFF YOUR GIFT TO LYN AT THE OFFICE ANY MORNING, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATIONS IN CASH. THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE ELVES!

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Marsha Heath



Dear Friend,

Thank you for being part of our Christmas Fund Community—whether you give through your local congregation, benefit from our grants and leadership programs, or simply believe in our mission—your support is making a real difference.

In 2024, your generosity touched the lives of 766 individuals who received grants, helping people in real ways: providing new hearing aids, supporting a family escape a war-torn country, and easing the burden of mounting medical bills. These aren't just numbers; they're stories of hope made possible by you.

This year, we invite you to continue this legacy of care. Your gift ensures that those who need it most feel the love and support of our Christmas Fund Community. NYCC will be taking this offering during the Christmas Eve services.



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

~ December 2025 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	3 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	4	5	6
7 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting	8	9 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 6p Trustees	10 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	11 6p Greater Freeport CC Rehearsal 6:30p Council	12	13 9a Pet Place Pantry 11a L. Marks' Birthday Party (FH)
14 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 1:30p GFCC 3p Greater Freeport Community Choir Concert	15	16 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Epiphany Rehearsal (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	17 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	18	19	20 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook) 9:30a Nativity Display
21 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	22	23 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	24 Christmas Eve Services 5p Family Srvs 11p Lessons & Carols 7p AA	25 Christmas 	26	27
28 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	29	30 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	31 No Choir 7p AA			