

WEEKLY NEWS - December 17, 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.

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.

Help Us Decorate the Tree in the Sanctuary

The 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 the ornament to make sure it gets back to you.



From the Desk of Pastor Day

From the Desk of Pastor Day: Advent Candles

The first two weeks of December have been the coldest beginning to the month in 39 years! Every day has averaged below normal temperatures. Uff da! A slight warm-up is forecast for late week, but then back to the deep freeze. On top of that we are in the darkest week of the year. Double Uff da!

A friend recently wrote from Tromsø, Norway, where she has spent the fall semester teaching. There, above the Arctic Circle, the sun set on November 27th and will not re-appear until January 15th. Uff da, indeed! The Norwegians call this period “mørketid” – the “Dark Time” – or “blåt看” – the “Blue Time.” Of course, the hardy locals do not let the cold or darkness stop them from enjoying outdoor winter sports or cozy times inside. One of the ways they cope with the cold and darkness is to light many candles.

As the familiar proverb says, “It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” (The quote has been attributed to many different people, including Confucius and Eleanor Roosevelt, but the first public occurrence of it in print was in a collection of sermons by William Watkinson published in 1907.)

We light candles, too. Every week in Church we begin worship with lighting the two candles on the altar. On the third Sunday of the month we encourage lighting candles for prayers of Joy or Concerns. This month we are lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath, symbolizing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. And on Christmas Eve we will light the Christ Candle, representing God’s own Presence, and end worship singing “Silent Night” and lighting our own candles as a reminder to carry the Light of Christ with us out into the world.



The past few days have witnessed terrible incidents of violence: the ambush of U.S. military personnel in Syria, shooting on the campus of Brown University in Rhode Island, the terrorist attack on the first night of Hanukkah at Bondi Beach, Sydney, Australia, and the murder of Rob Reiner & his wife. And those are just the headlines against a continuing background of war, domestic violence, conflict, and division.

We could just curse the darkness, but it is far better to spread what light and warmth we may offer – to our family and friends, strangers and the wider community.

A late friend of mine used to find amusement in reminding everyone at the Summer Solstice that the days would be growing shorter for the next six months. The opposite is true as well. This coming Sunday is the shortest day of the year. But the days will be getting longer and longer from that point on for the next six months. More importantly, the Light has appeared.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. . . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” **John 1:1-5, 14**

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Paul

December Meetings

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

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:00-12:00 pm

**Rentals / Usage
Fellowship Hall**

**Saturday, December 20
Nativity Display - 9:30-2:00pm**

**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

Birthday Party

Save the Date--January 3rd!

An 80th birthday party for Kathy Whittier will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 3, from 1-3. Church members and friends are invited. No presents, please.

If anyone would like to help provide refreshments, please contact Gail Strattard at 450-1512 or Linda Whittier at 409-9227 or middmoth@yahoo.com. Hope to have a good crowd!

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.

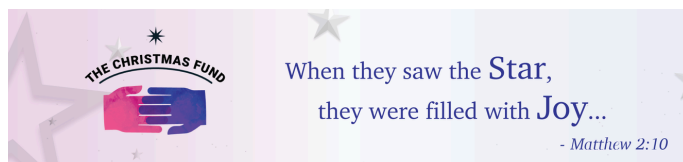
PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATIONS IN CASH. THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE ELVES!

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Marsha Heath

Annual Reports

It's that time again! Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, and Annual Reports need to be distributed on January 18. To meet this deadline, all board and committee reports need to be submitted to Kathy Whittier, Church Clerk, by Sunday, January 4, except for financials.



Dear Friends,

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

***The North Yarmouth
Congregational Church Presents***

“A Morning Star will Rise”

Epiphany Concert

2:00 PM

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Featuring the NYCC Choir & Friends

Special guests: Borderline 207

David Myers-Wakeman, director

Peter Dickson, collaborative pianist

with Elliot Barron on percussion

North Yarmouth Congregational Church

3 Gray Rd., North Yarmouth

Refreshments will be provided - Snow Cancellation Date - Saturday, January 17th at 2pm.

~ 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			