

WEEKLY NEWS - January 7th, 2026



Please keep the following people in your prayers

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

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Joel fuller and family on the passing of his wife, Marcia Fuller.

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

Hero of the Week

Many thanks to Gary who spent much of Monday and Tuesday at the church in the cold attending to the heating issue. A part has been ordered from Boston, and this will hopefully be resolved soon.

Church Council News

We are seeking nominations for our various committees to be confirmed at our annual Congregational meeting on January 25, 2026. If you are interested in participating or changing to another committee, please reach out to any member of the Church Council or a committee chairperson. It is important to the health of our church to have diverse experience on all the different committees. We look forward to hearing from as many people as possible.

Pet Place Pantry Donation



A huge thank you to the Cumberland County 4-H Swiners for their donations to the Pet Pantry. Although the awards supper had to be moved from NYCC to another location due to the lack of heat, they still showed up with donations in support of the pet pantry. How awesome and inspiring is that!

January Meetings

Missions - Monday, January 12 at 6:30pm via Zoom.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?
pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09)

Trustees - Tuesday, January 13th at 6pm.

Council - Thursday, January 15th at 6:30 pm.

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. Hall.

From Missions



The Sharing Sleigh

We would like to thank everyone who contributed by taking a name or names and helped to give someone in a nursing home a fun Christmas.

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

The Church will be closed on January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Rentals / Usage Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 10th
Epiphany Concert -2pm

The Girl Scouts will begin using the Community Room every other Wednesday from 5:45-6:30pm starting on January 14th.

From the Desk of Pastor Day: 20 + C + M + B + 26

As I write this it is Epiphany, celebrating the visit of the Magi to the Child Jesus, and in Eastern Orthodoxy, Jesus' Baptism by John in the Jordan. (More on that below.) In some cultures and traditions Epiphany is even more significant than Christmas since it commemorates that God's plan of salvation was revealed for all humankind.

While the Bible shares scant details about the Magi – just 12 verses in Matthew – tradition and imagination has supplied them. For example, we do not even know how many Magi there were; since they offered three gifts, it is assumed there were three. There could have been two or twenty. Plus, they undoubtedly included a larger company of servants and guardians. Furthermore, association with Isaiah's prophecy has granted them royal status – hence, "We Three Kings."

Tradition even names the Magi—Caspar (or Gaspar), Melchior, and Balthasar. Holy imagination identifies them as coming, respectively, from the three known continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe—and of varying ages: a young man, a middle-aged man, and an old man. Thus, the Magi represent all mankind.

We often translate Magi as "Wise Men," but they may have included men and women. All we know for certain is that they were astrologers from the "East." It is very likely that they came from Persia, Rome's rival empire to the East. That would readily explain the panic experienced by Herod and all Jerusalem: representatives of a rival empire claiming that an alternative, more legitimate king had been born—perhaps a prelude to war. The dominant religion of Persia was Zoroastrianism, a monotheistic faith that fostered astrology and included women as well as men among its seers.

There has been much speculation about the "Star" they followed as well. Was it a Supernova? An alignment of the planets and constellations? A comet? The last explanation has often been dismissed since comets do not "stop and stay" for any time. However, just recently an astronomer has claimed that records from ancient China describe a comet behaving just like that! Who knows?

There is an ancient tradition of "chalking" the lintel over the door of one's home on Epiphany, using the year, four crosses, and the initials C, M, B, thus: 20 + C + M + B + 26 Some think the initials stand for the three wise men—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Actually, they represent the Latin phrase Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which means "May Christ Bless this House." It is most appropriate to begin the New Year with prayers for God's blessing.

In the Western Christian tradition, Jesus' Baptism is celebrated on the First Sunday after Epiphany – January 11th this year. On Sunday we read from Matthew 3:13-17 and observe a liturgy for the Renewal of Baptism—remembering who we are and to what God is calling us. I hope you can join us, in person or on-line. I will also be sharing a brief guide for prayer for the next two weeks.

Grace & peace,

Pastor Paul

*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 Cancelation Date - Saturday, January 17th at 2pm.

~ January 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FH-Fellowship Hall	CR-Community Room			1 New Year's Day Church Closed	2	3 1p Kathy W. Birthday-FH
4 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting	5 5p 4H-Swiners Potluck in FH	6 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Epiphany Rehearsal (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	7	8	9	10 9a Pet Place Pantry 11:30a Epiphany Rehearsal (FH) 2p Epiphany Concert (FH)
11 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	12	13 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 6p Trustees	14	15 5:45p Girl Scouts -CR 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	16	17 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook) 1p Epiphany Concert Snow Date if needed
18 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	19 Martin Luther King Day Church Closed	20 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	21	22 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	23	24
25 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship Annual Meeting	26	27 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	28	29 5:45p-Girl Scouts-CR 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	30	31