

WEEKLY NEWS - January 28, 2026



Meet Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar



*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

*Prayers for Mike and Molly (Megquier) Washo and family. Mike's sister's home burned last night, and Mike's dad perished in the fire.

*Prayers for Daniel Pruett and his family. Dan has been diagnosed with lymphoma.

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

On Sunday, Feb. 1, Rev. Dr. Cynthia B. Biggar will begin serving as Interim Pastor here at North Yarmouth. A semi-retired UCC minister, Rev. Cynthia served as Pastor and Teacher at Standish Congregational Church, UCC (2008-2021) and as Interim Pastor at North Parish UCC in Sanford (2022-2025). She is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School (M.Div. 2004), and was ordained at Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, MA, in

2008. Prior to her ordination, Rev. Cynthia was a college English professor teaching primarily at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, OH (1988- 2000). Originally from North Carolina, she attended public schools and state universities there, earning a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1984 . Rev. Cynthia came to know and love Maine during vacations with her late husband, Raymond Biggar, who grew up in Saco and was a Bowdoin College alumnus. She lives in Saco with her dog Millie (Schipperke / Terrier mix).

February Meetings

Diaconate - Sunday, February 1st,
following worship

Trustees - Tuesday, February 13th at
6pm

Missions will not meet this month.

Faith Formation - Sunday, February
15th following worship

Council - Thursday, February 19th at
6:30 pm

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the
Gathering Space

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

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.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00-12:00 pm

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

**Rentals / Usage
Fellowship Hall**

From the Desk of Pastor Paul

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many cards and kind words.
Again, it has been a joy and privilege to serve
with you for a second time.

I will continue to hold you and the community in
my prayers.

With infinite hope, I commend you to the
pastoral ministry of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bland-Biggar
as you continue on the way towards calling a
Settled Pastor and Teacher.

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Creator
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul Day

News from the Board of Directors

Dear Members of the Maine Conference,

The holiday season kept us all busy, and our only meeting during
that time was conducted by email in order to approve housing
allowances before the start of the new year.

Since we last gathered, the Board has been tending to many of
the smaller—but essential—tasks that support the day-to-day
ministry of the Conference. In November, we welcomed Cindy
Clement to the Board and were grateful for the leadership of our
interim Conference Minister, Diane Weibel, who served while
Marisa was on sabbatical. At that meeting, we also began
conversations about our upcoming work together on Vision and
Mission statements.

As the snow continues to fall this afternoon, I write to share an
update on the work and life of your Board of Directors.

To Read More

Introduction to Manual on Local Church

Come and join us as we explore the Manual on Local Church.

Associate Conference Minister, Rev. John Fiscus will be
facilitating the conversation with emphasis on the Church Code
of Conduct and the Marks of Effective Congregations. Please
choose one of the two scheduled sessions and email us to save
your space at Conference@maineucc.org

Sessions:

Thursday February 19th 6:00 PM or

Saturday February 21st 9:00 AM

These meetings will be via Zoom and an E-mail link will be sent in
advance of the session.



Response to the DHS “Operation Catch of the Day”

A Pastoral Message and helpful information from our Conference Minister

Beloved Laity and Ministers, friends and members of the Maine Conference,

Many of you are aware that what Governor Mills predicted last week has come to pass this week. ICE has increased presence in the Portland and Lewiston areas, as well as in Biddeford and other areas in Cumberland and York Counties. We do not know if their “operation” will extend to other parts of Maine in the coming days and weeks. Although ICE has been present in Maine for some time, this increase is alarming and devastating for our immigrants whom we serve and protect. Some news cycles have reported that ICE is now entering private homes even without a judicial warrant, a clear violation of federal law. What is going on in our country and our state is unprecedented and has left us reeling with questions about how do we respond? How do we protect?

Above all, please remain calm in peaceful and nonviolent protest and do not attempt to stop ICE officials. Please do not put yourselves in harm’s way. Getting hurt or killed will not further the cause for peace or justice for anyone.

If you are in the presence of ICE detaining someone and wish to videotape, learn how to safely document. This is a helpful, short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnazGTC7H5o>.

Here are some suggestions of what we can do:

Stay informed by ILAP on latest updates: Law and Policy Updates - January 12th

When attempting to discern information rushing in at us from social media about ICE presence, resist the temptation to re-post until the information is fact-checked by the statewide verifier training program hotline: 207-544-9989 run by Presente! (and tied to the MIRC hotline).

Sign the “Prophetic Witness” statement that you received from me and Social Action. Our legislators need to hear voices from people of faith. The link is here: <https://forms.gle/76etCxrPH1L6CFzL8>

There is a gathering of faith leaders from across the state at a solidarity rally planned for this Saturday in Lewiston. Here is a link where folks can sign up.. https://actionnetwork.org/events/faith-leader-attendance-at-ice-them-out-protecting-our-neighbors-across-maine-solidarity-rally?source=direct_link&

There are local/regional groups of clergy organizing for mutual aid, etc. Encourage faith leaders to connect to the one in their area. The one in Portland has been up and running the longest. UCC clergy who are very active in it include Christine Dyke and Bryan Breault. Jodi Hayashida is organizing one in Lewiston-Auburn.

There is also an opportunity for people of faith--clergy and lay--to bear prayerful moral witness every Wednesday at the Cumberland County Jail ICE Detention Facility in Portland. This is not a protest. It is a prayer vigil with silence, prayers, and songs. Signs must be nonviolent, not vulgar, and nonpartisan.

For members of the white community (and that is most of us), please keep in mind that we need to listen carefully to people of color regarding what they need from us and how they wish for us to respond. Rushing in is no less analogous to claiming our white privilege that “knows best.” Please follow the lead of our immigrant neighbors and immigrant-led organizations when deciding on taking any actions.

Beloved, right now it appears that there is less and less we can do to change policy or to protect legally. I pray that will change. For now, let us gather together in solidarity, peaceful protest, offer our immigrant friends as much support and protection as we can, pray fervently, love fearlessly with extravagance.

I am with each and all of you with love and partnership, support and solidarity. Please contact me with ideas or for conversation anytime. mlaviola@maineucc.org

Marisa

New Printer Cartridge Recycling Program

We are setting up a collection spot to start collecting used ink cartridges that we will take in to Staples to recycle. This will help with the cost of shredding, etc. for the archive committee. If you generally throw away your used ink cartridges or take them to the transfer station please think about bringing them to the church. We will take care of them for you. Thank you.

The Archive Committee

PJS AND PANCAKES FOR SHROVE TUESDAY 2/17/26 5:30 – 7:00 PM NORTH YARMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Faith Formation committee is hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. We will provide pancakes and bacon. Everyone is welcome – bring a dish to share!

We'll be ringing the Church Bells and burning some Palms!

Pajamas are optional but encouraged!

What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians on the day before Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten season leading up to Easter. The expression "*Shrove Tuesday*" comes from the word *shrove*, meaning absolution following confession. Christians in many denominations and communities visit their church on *Shrove Tuesday* to confess their sins and clean their soul, thus being *shriven* (absolved) before the start of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is the last day of the Carnival or Shrovetide season, in which people indulge in richer, fatty foods before the fasting traditionally observed during Lent. Churches also ring bells to remind people to repent their sins and burn the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday, to make the ashes Ash Wednesday services the next day.

~ February 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Super Bowl 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting	2 Groundhog Day	3 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	4 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	5	6	7 1p M. Fuller Memorial Gathering (FH)
8 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	9	10 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 6p Trustees	11 5:45p Girl Scouts (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 9a Pet Place Pantry
15 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Faith Formation	16 Presidents Day Church Closed	17 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 5:30p Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	18 Ash Wed. 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal Ash Wed. Service TBD. 7p AA	19 6:30p Council	20	21 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook)
22 1 st Sunday in Lent 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	23 5p Greely Girls Hockey Banquet	24 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	25 5:45p Girl Scouts (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	26	27	28 9:30a -11:30 am Girl Scouts of Maine, Nidoba Serv. Unit