

WEEKLY NEWS - February 4, 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

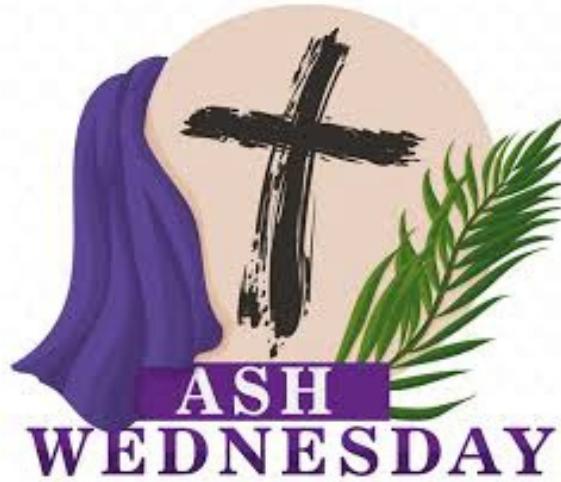
*Prayers for Mike and Molly (Megquier) Washo and family. Mike's sister's home burned last night, and Mike's dad perished in the fire.

*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.

News from the Diaconate

The Deacons had their first meeting with Cynthia Biggar, our new interim minister, last Sunday. A new chair was elected, Leslie Eastman. The upcoming Lenten season was discussed. It will include an Ash Wednesday service, February 18 at 5:30pm, and a Maundy Thursday meal and service on April 2. Palm Sunday is on March 29, and there will be a sunrise service and regular service at 9:30am on Easter, April 5. More details about all of these events will be forthcoming.



There will be an Ash Wednesday service held at NYCC on Wednesday, February 18th at 5:30 pm. The Gray and New Gloucester UCC churches have been invited to join us.

February Meetings

Trustees - Tuesday, February 10th 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

Rentals / Usage Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 7th -1-4pm
Marcia Smith Fuller Memorial Gathering

The Church will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of Presidents Day.

From the Desk of Rev. Cynthia Biggar

As I begin ministering together with you, I appreciate the warm welcome you have extended to me! Your previous Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Paul Day, is “a hard act to follow.” I am grateful for a Zoom conversation we had on Monday, Jan. 26, to talk about “the state of the church” and also for the kind “commendation” in his farewell letter last week. Several church leaders, Kathy Whitter, Jeff Shorey, and Mark Heath, have been especially helpful in orienting your new Interim Pastor. I am deeply impressed with David Myers-Wakeman, Music Director, and Lyn Glasscock, Church Administrator, both of whom have been friendly and helpful. I look forward to working with them both as colleagues. And I look forward to getting to know you all!

Your church's most obvious assets include the beautiful historic Sanctuary where the Light of God was pouring through the clear windows on Sunday; the well designed Fellowship Hall (also with lovely clear windows); your excellent music program; and your growing Faith Formation program.

You may want to know how and when I am available to talk with you. I will have two designated office hours per week, ordinarily on Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m. (exception: second Tuesdays each month when I have a Cumberland Association Executive Committee meeting). I will arrive early for any afternoon or evening meeting that I am attending, and will stay after daytime meetings or after church on Sundays, as needed. I am available for meetings or for pastoral visits by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays after 11 a.m.

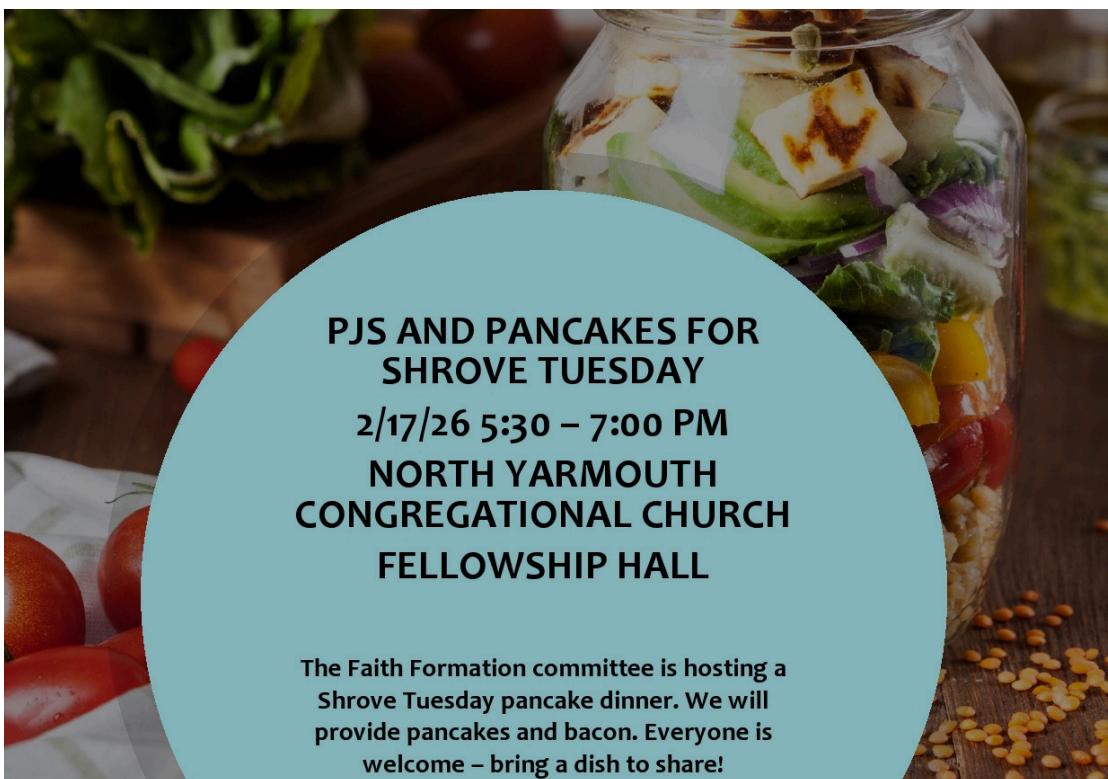
Prayers for us all are appreciated as I take on the role of your “temporary shepherd” (Intentional Interim Pastor) and as we move forward together.

Blessings and peace,
Cynthia
pastorbiggar@gmail.com

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



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 *shrive*, 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