

WEEKLY NEWS - February 18, 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, Susanelle Stearns, Nancy White

*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.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes

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Without a quorum last Sunday we were unable to approve the minutes from the annual meeting. Unless there are concerns, the minutes will be reviewed and approved at the February 19th Council Meeting. Please connect with Jeff Shorey if you have any concerns.



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.

Council Agenda

Church Council Agenda for February 19, 2026

Opening Prayer

Old business:

1. Efficiency Maine rebate for replacing light fixtures with LED
2. Update on heating system problems (boiler, valves and thermostats)
3. Report from Reverend Dr. Cynthia Biggar
4. Report from Leslie Eastman on status of the Sextons job description
5. Committee reports for January:

· Trustees

· Missions

· Diaconate, update on Music committee, snow cancelation policy changes to our Church service, other

· Financial

New Business:

1. Approve projects for donation request on our web site and face book page
Baby Grand piano, Sanctuary Gable end repair (north end), section of roof of fellowship hall, cleaning and painting the back side of the fellowship hall, others?
2. Review proposal for donation and installation of new LED parking lights and controls
3. Discussion on hiring a professional to market our facility for rental purposes
4. Spring cleanup plans?
5. Open discussion for everyone

February Meetings

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.

New Printer Cartridge Recycling Program

There is a collection container in the office 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

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00-12:00 pm

Rentals / Usage Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 21st-11:30am

Theron Hamilton Memorial Service
followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Monday, February 23rd 5-9pm

Greely Girls Hockey Banquet

Saturday, February 28th 9:30-11:30am

Girls Scouts of Maine, Nidoba Service Unit

Saturday, February 28th 2pm

Ukraine Prayer event in the Sanctuary

Last evening, more than 20 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Many thanks to Amanda Skupin, the Faith Formation team, the Davis family, and others for making this such a successful event! Before we ate, and before I said the Blessing, Amanda gave a great explanation of what Shrove Tuesday means, and why we were eating pancakes. “Shrove” is the past tense of the verb “shrive,” which relates to being forgiven for sins following confession (which many of us do by confessing to God when we are so inclined). In earlier times in Christendom, there was a three-day “Shrovetide” to prepare for the contemplative, penitential season of Lent. It was customary during Shrovetide to use up fats and sweets before embarking on a Lenten fast; hence a pancake supper, even if we are not planning to fast during Lent!

There is no reason why we cannot find our own meaning in such customs, especially with a bit of humor involved (the way Shrove Tuesday is celebrated in New Orleans—Mardi Gras—“Fat Tuesday.”) Several participants last evening were wearing pajamas as we had been invited to do, Mardi Gras masks were available, and “dessert” was a King Cake such as one would find in New Orleans on Mardi Gras—with a surprise baked into it (a mini baby doll). As your new Interim Pastor I was happy that several children came with their families last evening, and they appeared to be having fun.

Today we will be offering a traditional Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, along with members of the Gray UCC church. Their pastor, the Rev. Lindy Howe, will be leading the service with me, and those who wish to do so will be invited to come forward to receive ashes marking the sign of the cross on your hand or your forehead. Last evening, Amanda burned the palm leaves from last year’s Palm Sunday service, safely, outside, while we were eating, and the ashes will be used this evening.

Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, is a season that invites us intentionally to grow closer to God. (The word “Lent” relates etymologically to the “Lengthen,” and refers to the lengthening days this time of year).

On the First Sunday in Lent, this coming Sunday, we will embark upon a worship series called “The Way” (prepared by Dr. Marcia McFee; published online by Worship Design Studio). I have used their material in the past, and have been informed that Rev. Nancy White did likewise here at North Yarmouth. “The Way” was inspired in part by the 2010 film “The Way,” produced and written by Emilio Estevez. The film involves a walk along the Camino de Santiago, a traditional pilgrimage route in France, Portugal and Spain; and the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. The Faith Formation team is planning to organize a Family Night sometime in March, to share another meal and enjoy “The Way” movie together (details to be determined).

I look forward to walking the Lenten journey with you this year!

Cynthia

~ 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