

# WEEKLY NEWS - February 25, 2026



*Please keep the following people  
in your prayers*

**Congregation & Community:** Sheila Babcock (Pet Pantry patron), 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

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

## New Music Committee

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Looking for interested and committed people to serve on the new Music Committee. You don't have to be a musician, just interested in the viability of our music program and able and willing to serve. It is estimated that the committee will meet about once a month. There will also be ample opportunities to help out, even if you are not on the committee.

Please contact Music Director, David, to express interest and/or get a fuller description of the role of the committee.

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday  
8:00-12:00 pm

### **Rentals / Usage Fellowship Hall**

**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30am**  
Girls Scouts of Maine, Nidoba Service Unit

**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm**  
Ukraine Prayer event in the Sanctuary

**Friday, March 6**  
Greely Rec. Cheer Fundraiser

## March Meetings

Diaconate - Sunday, March 1 following worship

Trustees - Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Faith Formation - Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> following worship

Missions - Monday, March 16 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Council - Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the Gathering Space

Bell Ringing - Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm in the Community Room

Choir - Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and on Sundays from 8:30-9:00am in the sanctuary. **NO REHEARSAL ON FEB. 25TH**

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.

## February Church Council Summary

1. We are looking into an Efficiency Maine rebate if we change to LED light bulbs throughout the building. This is 50% of the energy that would have been used if we didn't change.
2. Jeff updated us on the status of the heating system. Note that the Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space have timers. When the timer is turned on, it signals that the space is occupied and the fan runs. The heat is regulated for occupied and unoccupied.
3. The Pastor reported what she has been doing as well as the general things that she will do as an interim with the congregation.
4. Leslie will update the Sexton's job description.
5. Boards reported on the fire suppression system, Missions donations to the Freeport Community Center, which serves Freeport, Pownal, and Durham, and continued Mission support for food pantries. One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on March 15. The Diaconate is working with Rev. Cynthia on Lenten services, which will include Maundy Thursday possibly in New Gloucester, Good Friday in Gray, as well as our own Palm Sunday, Easter Sunrise and breakfast and regular Easter service. Leslie Eastman was elected chair. Our finances are stable, with revenue up for January, but we are waiting for heating repair bills and additional snow removal bills. The church cancellation policy was written and will be disseminated.
6. We are going to put projects on the website and Facebook so that folks can donate to them. Projects mentioned: baby grand piano, sanctuary gable end repair, section of Fellowship Hall roof, repair and painting of the back of the church. The estimated cost for each project will be included when items are posted.
7. We approved a proposal from someone who will donate and install LED lighting in the parking lot.
8. Motion: To accept 220th Annual Meeting minutes. VOTED.

4 YEARS OF STRENGTH, UNITY & RESISTANCE  
**#StandWithUkraine**

From t

# PRAYERS & SONGS FOR UKRAINE

- SOLIDARITY EVENT
- UKRAINIAN ART MARKET
- REHABILITATION EQUIPMENT FOR UKRAINIAN VETERANS FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, FEB 28 | 2 PM**  
NORTH YARMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
3 GRAY ROAD  
NORTH YARMOUTH, MAINE

Last week we began our Lenten journey with friends from the Gray congregation who came to us for a joint Ash Wednesday service. On the First Sunday in Lent we began “The Way” series (published by Worship Design Studio), talked about dangerous roads and pathways, displayed walking sticks, and sang several songs / hymns about our need for God’s guidance on our travels through life.

Our prayer time during Lent is in a somewhat different style than usual. Each week it will include a guided meditation with choral responses as well as a time of sharing joys and concerns. During prayer time last week, I mentioned that the Deacons and I would be going over the prayer list together as a first step toward following up with the people who are on the list. This kind of review needs to happen periodically in churches, especially with the arrival of a new minister who is charged with providing pastoral care. Reviewing the list and checking in with those who are listed, or their families, is intended to improve pastoral and congregational care. Going forward, for the sake of protecting privacy and confidentiality around medical issues, it will be important to have permission from persons who need our prayers, or their primary caregivers, before publicly listing their names. Nowadays church bulletins and weekly newsletters count as public documents because they can be easily accessed online. Please know that we care very much for everyone who is associated with this congregation and we hope that you understand the reasons for the review.

The Faith Formation team, the Deacons, and I have been making plans for Lenten and Holy Week events. Sometime in March, possibly “Friday the 13th” (because it’s not a school night) we hope to offer a Family Night and show the movie “The Way” in the Fellowship Hall. On Maundy Thursday (4/2) and Good Friday (4/3) we will join forces with our friends at the New Gloucester and Gray UCC churches. Rev. Sheri Nelson (New Gloucester), Rev. Lindy Howe (Gray) and I are meeting tomorrow (Feb. 27) to work out the details. On Easter Sunday, Amanda Skupin will once again lead the Sunrise Service at Skyline Farm (time TBD). Our Easter morning worship service will be held as usual at 9:30 a.m., led by your Interim Pastor, followed by an Easter Egg hunt.

Blessings on your journeys,

*Rev. Cynthia*

One Great Hour of Sharing  
Rev. Cynthia Biggar

The One Great Hour of Sharing (**OGHS**) offering is one of five UCC offerings each year. The others are: Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Offering (Veterans of the Cross), and Our Church's Wider Mission.

From its beginnings in the 1950's, **OGHS has been an ecumenical effort**, currently involving eight denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ.

All of these denominations and many more work **in cooperation with Church World Service**, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

**OGHS helps to fund Church World Service.** Along with overseas partner churches, **Church World Service workers are often the first on the scene following a disaster** of natural or human origin. One Great Hour of Sharing, nearly 75 years old, continues to respond to critical needs.

### 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

# ~ February 2026 ~

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

## ~ March 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal  9:30a Worship  11a Diaconate Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH)  6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>4</b> 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR)  6:30p Choir Rehearsal  7p AA	<b>5</b> 1p Discipleship	<b>6</b> 5p Greely Rec Cheer Fundraiser (FH)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Begins  8:30a Choir Rehearsal  9:30a Worship	<b>9</b> 5p Greely Girls Hockey Banquet  6:30p Missions Mtg Via Zoom	<b>10</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH)  6p Paley's Men's Group  6p Trustees	<b>11</b> 5:45p Girl Scouts (CR)  6:30p Choir Rehearsal  7p AA	<b>12</b>   1p Discipleship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  9a Pet Place Pantry  4p Turkish Cultural Ctr event (FH)
<b>15</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal  9:30a Worship  11a Faith Formation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Saint Patrick's Day 10a Tuesday Gals (FH)  6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>18</b> 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR)  6:30p Choir Rehearsal  7p AA	<b>19</b>  1p Discipleship  5p Greely Hockey Banquet  6:30p Council	<b>20</b> Spring Begins	<b>21</b> 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook)  11a Bahai New Year Event (FH)
<b>22</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal  9:30a Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH)  6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>25</b> 5:45p Girl Scouts (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>26</b>  1p Discipleship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal  9:30a Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH)  6p Paley's Men's Group	Church Admin. Lyn, will be out of the office on Tuesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup> .			