

WEEKLY NEWS - March 25, 2026



Please keep the following people in your prayers

Congregation & Community: Candy Burgess, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns

Wider World: People recovering from natural disasters and conflicts in the U.S. and around the world. Peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

Office News

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

**Rentals / Usage
Fellowship Hall**

**Greater Freeport Community Choir Concert
May 9 at 7pm**

LOOK WHAT WE DID!!!

You folks really got behind the ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING this year !

To date, \$685.00! has been given so that those kids who are hungry can have a chocolate chip cookie and a glass of milk; that man who is cold can have a warm sweater; those who have lost their home can have a tent to sleep in. To add our giving to all the other churches who take part in this, is going to make a difference...and that's the good news.

Thank you and blessings to you.

Missions Board.

P.S. A special thank you to our Sunday School Class for their contribution!

P.S.S. (from Lyn) - Will not be sending OGHS in for a couple of weeks to give folks time to add to our giving.

Join our Chicken Pie Mission

We Need Your Help!

We would like to fill the freezer with whole chickens, chicken breasts or thighs for our next chicken pie making session. If you are moved to help fill the freezer, they can be placed in the freezer in the kitchen hallway. Chickens are on sale this week at Shaws for 99 center per pound.

We also have frozen chicken pies and gravy for sale

Chicken and Gravy Pie - \$25
Small Chicken and Gravy Pie - \$13
Pint of Gravy - \$7

And as always, thank you, thank you, thank you!

During Lent we have been following “The Way,” from Worship Designs Studio (Dr. Marcia McFee). This worship series has invited us to consider our life journeys--the roads, paths, and pilgrimages we have taken—in connection both with Scripture and with the movie, “The Way” (2010).

Last Friday the Faith Formation team sponsored a Movie Night complete with potluck supper, pizza, and popcorn (special thanks to Sandy Brann for the popcorn—and to everyone who brought delicious food to share). We watched “The Way” together after supper--a powerful film, especially for those who have experienced the loss of a child as Tom, the film’s protagonist, and his fellow pilgrim Susan, have done. Tom is walking the Pilgrimage Way in memory of his son Daniel, who had just started his own pilgrimage when he was killed in a freak accident.

Tom starts his pilgrimage at the border of France and Spain, where Daniel’s remains were brought after he was killed. Carrying Daniel’s ashes in a metal box and leaving some of the ashes at special places along the way, Tom hikes through Spain to the Cathedral of Santiago in Compostella (“Santiago” = St. James). Along the way, another pilgrim who is a priest gives Tom a rosary which he does not pressure him to use. Tom’s initial response to the priest, while polite, amounts to “I am no longer religious.” But by the end of the pilgrimage Tom is able to pray again. He prays at the cairn where pilgrims leave the rocks they have been carrying (symbolizing letting go of burdens). He thanks the priest for the rosary when they happen to meet up in Compostella, and we see him on his knees at the altar, with the box in which he has been carrying Daniel’s ashes.

On the advice of another father that Tom meets along the way, he actually completes his pilgrimage at Muxia, the Spanish “Land’s End,” where he lets the wind take the rest of Daniel’s ashes into the sea (Muxia looks eerily like “Land’s End” at Bailey’s Island near Harpswell).

The pilgrimage experience brings Tom closer to God, closer to his son, and indeed closer to his own soul, enabling him to follow a long-deferred dream. As the film ends, we see Tom walking in a scenic but crowded town in India, wearing the scallop shell that distinguishes those who have completed the Pilgrimage to Santiago.

Whether we venture to make long adventurous journeys, or just follow the paths that present themselves to us in everyday life, even a journey along the Maine turnpike and/or along the beautiful “back roads” of Maine can help us to reflect on who we are, where we are, and what God may be calling us to do, or to become.

Buen Camino, my friends!

Rev. Cynthia

From the Council - March Meeting

1. Council discussed both the meeting time and the length of Council meetings and decided to move the beginning time back to 6:00 instead of 6:30. Also discussed was the meeting day, but Thursdays seemed to be ok. This will start in April. The Moderator will provide weekly updates for items of interest to the congregation, and a summary report of the meeting will be provided for the weekly news the week after the meeting.
2. Financials: Fuel consumption was down, bills for heating repairs have been received (see Trustees report). Snow removal was higher in January/February. Pledges are on track. Repairs will be put on the wish list for donations, but if work needs to be done, it will be.
3. Pastor's report: Rev. Cynthia discussed the Lenten series "The Way" and Lenten services. There will be a special UCC service —"Celebrating the UCC"—on May 3. There will be no Cumberland Association Spring Meeting, so all Association churches will be providing this service on the same day.
4. Committee reports. Trustees: Heating bills haven't been itemized, so we don't know what we are being charged for. Jeff and Gary will sort this out with the suppliers. The Trustees have created a new space usage checklist, and this will be discussed at a future Council meeting. Parking lot lighting: Jeff and Roger will set up a demo to be sure that the lights do what we want them to before installing. Diaconate: The deacons have been working with Rev. Cynthia to make the worship service a little more formal with candle lighting. They are also working with Rev. Cynthia on the prayer list, which is overseen by Rev. Cynthia and the Diaconate. Rev. Cynthia has been contacting folks on the list to introduce herself and ascertain current status. The four requirements for the prayer list will be put in the newsletter. Missions: One Great Hour of Sharing was very successful probably because it was lifted up ahead of time.
5. New business: Projects for the wish list will have details provided — estimates, specifications, etc. — before being put online. Other topics brought up need more and future discussion.
6. Meeting adjourned.

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.

Some thoughts about our prayer list ...

Prayers of intercession are important to us in this church because we care about each other and things that may be happening in our community and world. At the same time it is important to respect the personal privacy of others, especially since we communicate via the internet.

Here are some guidelines for eliciting prayers on another person's behalf:

A person's name should only be published in a prayer list with the permission of that individual.

If the person is extremely ill or is a minor, the caregiver, parent or guardian may give permission.

Health details should be shared only with permission.

When information is shared, less is best. The Lord knows all the details; it is not necessary for us to know everything in order to pray.

If you would like to add someone's name to our prayer list, please speak with one of the deacons or the pastor.

The Diaconate

Printer Cartridges

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

Faith Formation

The Faith Formation committee is looking for your input on programs and events. Do you want more Bible studies? Dinners? Community events? Movie nights? Programs for all ages? Feel free to speak with Amanda Skupin, Sandra Brann, Jess Smith or Gail Strattard about your ideas and wishes for the year. We would love to hear your thoughts!

LENT & HOLY WEEK

SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday (March 29):

9:30am (Worship)

Maundy Thursday (April 2):

5:30 PM (Soup and Bread Service) and
6:30 PM Tenebrae Service at the New Gloucester
Church-19 Gloucester Hill Rd. with combined choirs.
*Anyone who would like to bring dessert is welcome to
do so.*

Good Friday (April 3):

5:00 PM Service with Combined Choirs
at the Gray UCC Church - 11 Yarmouth Rd. Gray, ME

Easter Sunrise Service (April 5):

6:00am (at Skyline Farm 95 The Lane, North Yarmouth)

Easter Breakfast (April 5):

approx. 6:45am at the church following the sunrise
service at NYCC

Easter Sunday (April 5):

9:30am (worship) at NYCC

~ March 2026 ~

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

Faith Formation - Sunday, April 12 following
Worship

Missions - Monday, April 13 via Zoom
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzYy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09)
[pwd=bHEzYy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzYy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09)

Trustees - Tuesday, April 14 at 6pm

Council - Thursday, April 16 at 6:30pm

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the Gathering
Space

Bell Ringing - Wednesday, April 1, 15, 22, 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.

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.

~ April 2026 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FH= Fellowship Hall CR= Community Room			1 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR) 6:30p Choir 7p AA-FH	2 Maundy Thursday 1p Discipleship 5:30p Soup & Bread 6:30p Tenebrae Service at New Gloucester Cong. Church 19 Gloucester Hill)	3 Good Friday 5p Good Friday Service at Gray Cong Church (11 Yarmouth Rd, Gray, ME)	4
5 Easter 6a Easter Sunrise Service (Skyline Farm), 95 The Ln 6:45a Easter Breakfast (NYCC) 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	6	7 10a Tuesday Gals 6p Paley's Men's Group-CR	8 5:45p Girl Scouts-CR 6:30p Choir 7p AA-FH	9 1p Discipleship	10	11 9a Pet Place Pantry
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26 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	27	28 10a Tuesday Gals 6p Paley's Men's Group-CR	29 5:45p Girl Scouts (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	30 1p Discipleship	Lyn will be out of the office on Thursday, April 30th.	