

WEEKLY NEWS - May 20, 2026



In Our Prayers

- We pray for all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones,
- serving our country in the Military, including James Black, E-6, US Navy;
- or experiencing health issues or personal concerns, including Candy B., Sandra and Vince G., Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., Holly and Charles S., and Susanellen S.

We pray for those in the wider world, nationally and globally who are:

- hungry or unhoused,
- experiencing violence and destruction from wars and conflicts,
- rebuilding their lives following natural disasters, or recovering from trauma.

We pray for peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

*Please submit items for the Church Calendar to Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. For the prayer list, please speak with a deacon or the pastor. Thank You.



The annual Women's Fellowship/Tuesday Gals Rummage Sale will be happening on Saturday, May 23. We are looking for lots of volunteers, especially for cleanup. Drop-off days at the church will be Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22. Please do not bring anything earlier because there is no place to store it. We are looking for salable items such as housewares, china, pots and pans, small appliances, linens, clothing, books, games, toys, knick-knacks, puzzles. Please, no electronics unless you know they are working. Other items also welcome, as long as they are salable, clean, and working.

Again, volunteers are needed to help set up, work during the sale, and clean up. We are also hoping that parishioners might also pick up anything leftover on Sunday and take it to Goodwill...

Contact Gail or Kathy to let us know if you can help in any capacity. Thanks! We look forward to a lot of great items and a great sale!

From the desk of Rev. Cynthia Biggar, May 20, 2026

On Pentecost (May 24 this year), we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers gathered in Jerusalem. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit appeared ("manifested") as a mighty Wind and as Tongue of Flame, enabling Jesus' followers (especially Peter) to speak in multiple languages to people from all over the world who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish "festival of weeks" (or Shavuot).*

It is just as important to celebrate Pentecost as Christmas (the birth of Jesus) and Easter (the resurrection). The Holy Spirit is one aspect (or "person") of the Trinity (the others being God the Creator / father / parent; and Jesus the Christ / savior / redeemer). The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Trinity who remains present and active in our world. In this Spirit "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28)

Pentecost is considered "the Birthday of the Church," because 3000 people were converted to Christianity that day after hearing the Apostle Peter's sermon in his or her own language (see Acts 2:8-11; Acts 2:37-42).

Thanks to the Faith Formation team (Amanda Skupin, Jess Smith, Sandy Brann and Gail Strattard) and others, we will continue our celebration of Pentecost with a cookout following the service!

Hope to see you there!

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Cynthia

pastorbiggar@gmail.com

*In Judaism, "Shavuot" is (and was) a harvest festival, celebrated on the Fiftieth day after Passover (therefore, in Greek, it's called "Pentecost" / "fiftieth"). In Rabbinic tradition, Shavuot also celebrates God's giving the Torah (including the Ten Commandments) to the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai.

Office Hours Monday - Thursday

8:00-12:00 pm

Fellowship Hall Rental

Saturday, May 30-6pm

Ukrainian Community Concert



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Many congregations will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026.

May Meetings and Activities

Council - Thursday, May 21 at 6pm

Diaconate - Sunday, May 31 following worship

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the Gathering Space

Bell Ringing - Wednesday May 6 and 20, 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.

Only God can
turn a **MESS** into a
message, a **TEST** into a
testimony, a **TRIAL** into
a **triumph**, a **VICTIM**
into a **victory**.

Contributed by, but not written by, Gail S.

Pringle Cans Needed

Collecting Pringle Cans for a Christmas Fair Project

Candace is collecting Small and Large Empty Pringle chip cans WITH THE LIDS. They can be dropped off in the office. Thank you.

Garden Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!! to assist in the maintenance of the church's perennial gardens. The care needed is for "deadheading" the old blossoms and checking for unwanted grass or dandelions. A layout is on display in the Gathering Place if you would like to take just a section of the garden.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Lois Knight.

Pilgrim Lodge Scholarships

No matter your age there is something for you at our Pilgrim Lodge church camp. Gail S. is a great resource if you have questions about this particular camping experience.

The Missions Board is offering \$100.00 scholarships to any church connected person interested in attending. Pastor Cynithia is planning a Pilgrim Lodge Sunday soon. We can probably gain a lot of the ins and outs of PL at that time. Stay tuned!

Your Missions Board in action
ps: you probably could invite a friend to join you.....we'd help them, too.



We have scheduled the 2026 Strawberry Festival for Saturday, June 27 from 1-3pm. I am reaching out to all of you in hopes that you will be available to help out with this event in whatever way you can.

This is the timeline that I hope will work out with your schedule so that you can participate:

Thursday, June 25

8:00 am Make Pies and Prepping Berries
This would be 8-10 am or 10:30 am

Friday June 26

Setting up fellowship hall for the festival
This should not take more than a couple of hours, if that. Time is flexible.

Saturday June 27

8:00- 10:30 am slicing berries for shortcakes and selecting berries for dip a berry
12:30 pm Workers should arrive and double check their table
1-3pm Festival

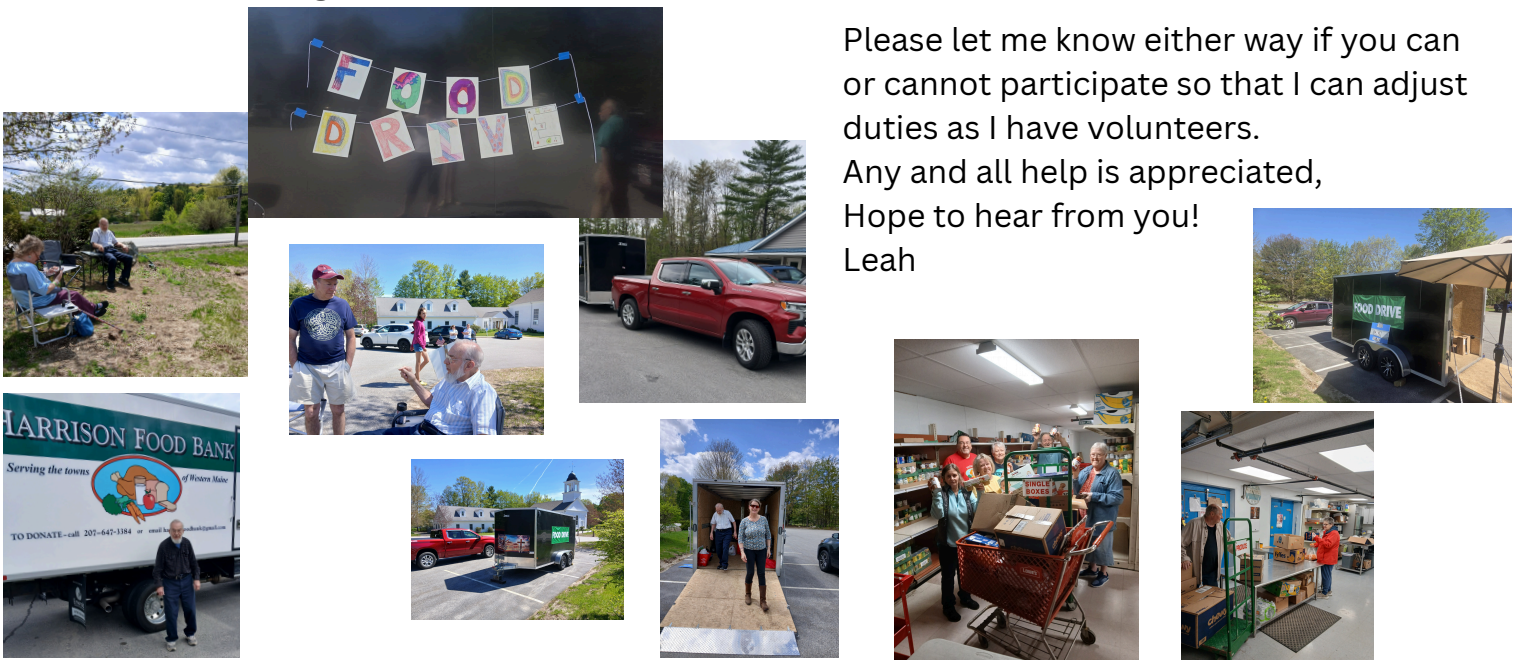
Fill the Trailer Food Drive for Harrison Food Bank

A big thank you to everyone from our volunteers, including our Sunday School class for helping with the food drive on a beautiful day, and to everyone who stopped by and donated items to help neighbors in need.

Please let me know either way if you can or cannot participate so that I can adjust duties as I have volunteers.

Any and all help is appreciated,
Hope to hear from you!

Leah



Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to all of our 2026 graduates!

The list includes:

Hadley Smith – NYA
Marin Heath – Baxter School
Ellie Whittier – Ohio State (Nursing)
Kate Dransfield – UNE (Masters in Education)
Josh Brobst – Northeastern University
(Masters in Data Science)
Allyson Petit (Nursing)

We will be having a ceremony to honor them this coming Sunday. Please join us!

The Deacons

Exciting Opportunity!

Are you interested in history, specifically the history of our church? Our 220th anniversary is coming up in September 2026 (more information on this later in the year), and part of our celebration includes updating the timeline that was created in 2006 for our 200th anniversary.

The original timeline, which will be brought out of storage and exhibited, needs to be updated for the last 20 years. The first timeline included related events for the church, the town, and the country from 1806-2006.

We are looking for some volunteers, especially with some computer skills, to help research, organize data, and physically create the last 20 years of the timeline.

If this is something you would like to help with, please contact Mark Heath or Rev. Cynthia.

Learn more about our church!

Volunteers Needed for the Flower Committee

Ellen and Gail have been doing a great job providing flowers to brighten up the sanctuary and inspire us all. But, they could use some assistance. If you think you might be able to help, please see Leslie, Gail or Ellen. It would be much appreciated!

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.

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!

Church Council Agenda for May 21, 2026

Old Business

1. Check in with everyone
2. Opening prayer
3. Pastor's report
4. Review and approve April meeting minutes
5. Financial report

Committee reports

- a. Trustee's
 - i. Status of shed project
 - ii. Status of parking lot lighting project (Jeff/Roger)
 - iii. Status of bid request for the North gable end of the church
 - iv. Status of bid request to replace the heat trace and insulate the stairwell
- b. Diaconate/Faith Formation
- c. Missions

New Business

1. Review and approve Sexton's job description presented by Leslie Eastman
2. Review and approve a targeted donation for repairs to the gable end of the Sanctuary from John and Pam Ames
3. Discuss proposed changes to our vendors for phone and internet services
4. Review approved Policy (11/19/25) for displaying flags and signs in front of our church.
5. Approve Roger and Trudy Pushor to volunteer for the Trustees Committee

Open discussion

~ May 2026 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am Church Spring Clean Up
3 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	4	5 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	6 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	7 1p Discipleship	8 6p FCC Rehearsal (FH)	9 9a Pet Place Pantry 7p Freeport Community Chorus Concert (FH)
10 Mother's Day 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Faith Formation	11 6:30p Missions Mtg via Zoom	12 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 6p Trustees	13 5:45p Girl Scouts (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	14 1p Discipleship	15	16 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook)
17 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9-2pm Fill the Trailer Food Drive 9:30a Worship	18	19 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	20 5:45p Bell Ringing (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	21 1p Discipleship 6p Council	22 Rummage Sale Set Up	23 9a Rummage Sale
24 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	27 5p Girl Scouts (CR) 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	28 1p Discipleship	29	30
31 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting						