

WEEKLY NEWS - May 27, 2026



In Our Prayers

We pray for those in our congregation and community who are

- mourning the loss of loved ones;
- serving our country in the military, including James Black, E-6, US Navy; Nick Mangino, Master Sergeant, Maine Air National Guard
- experiencing health issues or personal concerns, including Candy B., Sandra and Vince G., Steve Q., Lori M., and Kaitlin Q., Wayne and Beth Malloch; Holly and Charles S., and Susanelen 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,
- 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.

May/June Meetings and Activities

Diaconate - Sunday, May 31 following worship

Trustees - Tuesday, June 9 at 6pm

Faith Formation - Sunday, June 14 following worship

Missions - Monday, June 15 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Council - Thursday, June 18 at 6pm

Diaconate - Sunday, June 28 following worship

Discipleship - Thursdays at 1pm in the Gathering Space

Bell Ringing - Wednesday June 3 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.

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

Fellowship Hall Rental
Saturday, May 30-6pm
Ukrainian Community Concert

Saturday, June 6-11am
Celebration of Life for Mitsuko Fowler -
Family Remembrance Gathering

From the desk of Rev. Cynthia Biggar, May 27, 2026



On “the First Sunday after Pentecost” or “Trinity Sunday” (May 31 this year), pastors and Sunday School teachers do our best to explain the concept of “God the Trinity”: how there can be “one God in three persons.” The “three persons” traditionally are “God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.” In less limiting, more inclusive language: “Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,” or “Creator, Redeemer / Savior, Sustainer.”

Explanations for “one God in three persons” range from highly theological / theoretical statements to down-to-earth analogies such as this one: the Trinity is like a chemical compound that exists in solid, liquid, and gaseous forms. H₂O, for example, exists as ice, water, and steam. In abstract art, the Triquetra symbol (above) can stand for the Trinity: one circle encompassing an infinite loop making three knots.

My favorite theologian, Julian of Norwich, thought and wrote a great deal about the Trinity in *A Revelation of Love* (c. 1400)*. As one who enjoys linguistic subtleties, I like her statement that the Trinitarian God *may, can, and shall* “*make all things well.*” In Middle English, “may” indicated having power; “can” indicated knowing how; and “shall” indicated “must certainly.” So, Julian is saying that our Trinitarian God has the power to make everything ok; knows how to make everything ok; and most certainly will, ultimately, make everything ok.

That’s a Trinitarian statement I can live by, so I offer it to you☺

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Cynthia
pastorbiggar@gmail.com

* Watson, Nicholas; Jenkins, Jacqueline (2006). *The Writings of Julian of Norwich: A Vision Showed to a Devout Woman and A Revelation of Love*. Pennsylvania State University Press. The statement summarized above is found in Chapter 31).

Flower Committee Volunteers Needed

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!

Help fill the Freezer!

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

Pint of Gravy - \$7

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

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!

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 Cynthia 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

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



There will be a church picnic at the Mark and Marsha's house on Sunday, June 7 at noon. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be served. Please bring a dish to share, and a chair!



Maine Lions Project Recycle

The donation box out in the entry way is for collecting old eyeglasses, hearing aids and cell phones. The Lioness-Lions Clubs collect these from all over the county to be recycled. I think we have become "blind" to the box and it is important! Please think of using this box to recycle your items that are no longer needed. Your donation will help someone See, Hear, or in an Emergency, Call for help!

Thank you, Gail S.

MAY CHURCH COUNCIL SYNOPSIS

1. Cynthia went over her duties as an interim and discussed having meetings this summer to explore who we are, followed possibly by a 220th anniversary celebration in the fall.
2. Financials: Pledges and loose offering are up; fundraising and rental income down. However, rentals to date total \$4290, so if this trend continues, we will make up for the loss of daycare income. Maintenance and supplies account is up due to donations. As of 4/30/26, pour total income is up about \$1400. Ministerial expenses are up because we have a minister, and May expenses will reflect Cynthia's health and annuity contributions. Fuel consumption is down, but the price has doubled over past year. All heating repairs have been paid. At the end of April, we are breaking even.
3. Trustees: They need help getting bids on projects that have been discussed. Roger and Trudy Pushor have asked to join Trustees, **MOTION: To welcome Roger and Trudy Pushor to Trustees. Jeanne/Marsha. VOTED.** A dedicated donation of \$500 was received for the office cabinets. **MOTION: To accept a donation from John and Pam Ames for work on the gable end of the church. Gary/Jeanne. VOTED.** Parking lot lights are about $\frac{3}{4}$ complete.
4. Diaconate: The church recognized seven graduates, high school, college, and graduate with gift cards and flowers. They discussed a 220th anniversary possibly on 9/27 or 10/11. This could be a Sunday service, followed by lunch and historical speakers in conjunction with the North Yarmouth Historical Society.
5. Missions: Fill the Trailer was successful and the Harrison Food Bank was very grateful. Annie Graham will spearhead work with the Preble Street Teen Center when she is able. Missions provided snacks for Prince Memorial Library. Pet Pantry clients doubled; they are receiving donations from HART and the Westbrook Animal Refuge League. They might work with Gray and New Gloucester churches to provide school bags. Cynthia would like to do a blessing of the backpacks.
6. Behavioral covenant: A copy of this has been laminated and is on display in the Fellowship Hall. Please check it out.
7. It was suggested that we add a sign by the main road that we have a Sunday School, since we now have a year's history. Cynthia has been added to our main sign; Rob and Janine Dransfield have refurbished our "God Welcomes All" sign.
8. Sexton's job description: Leslie completed work on this with Mark, the last job description to be completed. **MOTION: To accept the sexton's job description as presented. Gary/Marsha. VOTED.** With all job descriptions now complete, we need to follow up with an evaluation process, including goals for the next year.
9. Changes to phone vendor: Because Consolidated increased its price per line by \$20, we are exploring going with T-Mobile, which would decrease our monthly bill from \$434 to \$150. We would like to try this out for two months by running both systems concurrently to be sure that the T-Mobile system meets our needs. Phone numbers will not change, and everything will feel the same during this period and if the change is finalized. **MOTION: To approve a \$300 expenditure to explore changes to the phone system. Marsha/Jeanne. VOTED.**
10. Flag policy: The following flag policy was adopted by the Church Council at its November 2025 meeting and will be brought to the congregation for a vote at our next annual meeting: **Be it resolved that the American flag may be displayed on church property from dawn to dusk on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. Temporary signs promoting church activities such as the Christmas Fair, suppers, and special events may be displayed as appropriate. Any other flags, banners, or signs may be displayed with the express approval of the Church Council and in compliance with town ordinances.**

~ 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) 9am Cleanup Rain Date
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 FH Rental -6pm Ukrainian Community in ME Concert
31 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting						