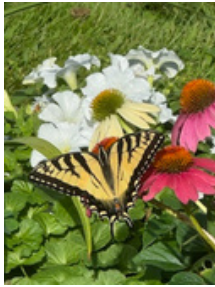


# WEEKLY NEWS - August 26, 2026



## 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;
- experiencing health issues or personal concerns, including George D. (brother of Leah D.), Sandra and Vince G., Samuel N., Steve Q., Lori M., and Kaitlin Q., and James S. (Amanda S's husband).

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 by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. For the prayer list, please speak with a deacon or the pastor. Thank You.

## September Meetings and Activities

Trustees - Tuesday, September 8 at 6pm

Faith Formation - TBA

Council - Thursday, September 17 at 6pm

Diaconate - Sunday, September 27th following worship

Missions - Monday, September 14 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Please check with your committees to confirm you are meeting in August)

Council - Thursday, August 20th at 6pm

Diaconate - Sunday, August 30th following worship

Missions will not meet again until September 14th

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.

Book Discussion - Thursdays, September 17- November 19 at 1pm

Choir Rehearsal begins again on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30pm

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.

***From the desk of Rev. Cynthia Biggar, August 26, 2026***

Earlier this month, we offered a “Blessing of the Backpacks”: an annual back-to-school blessing that is customary in many churches today. Because we three pastors wanted to have this Blessing when our three churches were together on Aug. 2, it was early; and now, as August ends and September begins, we really are in “Back to School” season. Members and friends of NYCC who are in college have already embarked upon this year’s academic adventures, and all other students, teachers, and staff members will start very soon. My prayers for a safe school year full of good learning and good friendship go with you all!

Here at NYCC, starting on September 17, we will be offering a book discussion series that also counts as a Bible Study. The book is: *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, by Rachel Held Evans (1981-2009). This is Rachel Held Evans’ memoir about her lifelong fascination with the Word of God, along with the many questions about Biblical interpretation that came up for her as she outgrew her Evangelical / Fundamentalist roots. The book discusses several types of stories and other genres in the Bible, bringing in wise words from Biblical scholars and other writers as needed.

Our discussion will be offered on Thursday afternoons from 1:00-2:30 p.m., Sept. 17-Nov. 19. Several participants already have copies of the book. Please let me (Rev. Cynthia) know if you are interested, as more copies are available (I will be the facilitator). Each week we will talk about at least one of the Bible passages that Evans is considering, along with the book itself.

Lastly, please plan to join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Sept. 20: Homecoming Sunday, with a potluck lunch following the service. And invite a friend!

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

## Faith Formation

The Faith Formation team held our regular meeting on Sunday, August 9. We finalized preparations for our Trivia Night on August 13 at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed curriculum options for the coming Sunday School year. This fall we will use materials from Illustrated Ministry that correspond with the lectionary readings, allowing our Sunday School class and adults upstairs to learn about the same scripture passages each week. We plan to have the children decorate the classroom on September 13, with lessons beginning on September 20. We hope you will take the time to visit our Sunday School room to see what our children are learning.



We also need teachers and helpers for the upcoming Sunday School year. Background checks and mandated reporter training are required. Background check forms are available in the church office and Amanda Skupin will have forms available at Sunday services. Mandated reporter training takes about an hour and can be done online at [mainemandedreporter.org](http://mainemandedreporter.org). We hope you will support this valuable ministry!

## Church Gardens

**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.

## Trustees

The Trustees held our regular meeting on August 11, 2026. We received a financial report from our Treasurer, and we are on budget for the year. We discussed a proposal to better insulate the back kitchen stairwell, hopefully eliminating the ice issues from years past. This project will involve removing the existing sheetrock and insulation, framing a new ceiling, installing additional insulation and more lighting, and replacing the existing exterior door. If you have questions or are available to help with this project, please see Gary Davis or Roger Pushor.

Women's Fellowship has generously agreed to contribute to the cost of having the Fellowship Hall carpet professionally cleaned. The remainder of the cost will come from our regular budget, and we hope to have it cleaned in mid-September.

After a two-month test, our phone system will switch to a wireless signal this month. This will save on the cost of maintaining multiple landlines and improve reliability of the entire system. All church phone numbers will stay the same.

Lastly, we are looking for additional bids for painting work on the exterior of the sanctuary. If you have a reliable painting contractor you know and trust, please let us know!

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

**Fellowship Hall**  
**Worship is now being held in the**  
**airconditioned Fellowship Hall**

## Flower Committee Volunteers Needed

Our beautiful sanctuary flowers don't appear by magic! Ellen and Gail have faithfully shared their time and talents to brighten our worship space each week, and they're looking for a few helping hands when we return to the sanctuary.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please see leslie, Gail, or Ellen. We would love to have you join the team!

## 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!

220th Anniversary of North Yarmouth  
Congregational Church

Are you interested in history, specifically the history of our church? Our 220th anniversary is coming up in October 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 have a strong team in place, but if you would like to help we would love to have you join us!

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

Learn more about our church!

## Help Fill the Cart for the Harrison Food Pantry

The Harrison Food Pantry is in desperate need of dry goods. They are unable to fill the boxes with all of the foods that are needed. Below are some examples of foods that they are looking for, though any non-perishable item that you would like to donate will help.

Please be sure to check the expiration date before donating, as food pantries are unable to give away food that is out of date.

- Grains and Cereals: Rice, Oats, quinoa, breakfast cereals
- Pastas and Noodles: Dried spaghetti, macaroni, ramen
- Legumes: Dried beans, split peas, and lentils
- Snacks: Crackers, cookies, tea and coffee

Thank you for your continued help to feed our neighbors!

Your Missions Committee

Faith Formation Events

July-October 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

|         |                                  |                                                                                                                            |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JULY 10 | Doors Open 5:30<br>Movie at 6:30 | Movie Night: The King of Kings<br>Movie night with pot luck dinner.<br>Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:00, movie at 6:30   |
| JULY 31 | 6:00 PM                          | Portland Sea Dogs<br>Faith and Family Night at Hadlock Field                                                               |
| AUG 13  | 5:30 PM                          | Trivia Night<br>Pot luck dinner and trivia night. Trivia questions on NYCC history, UCC history, and Bible knowledge.      |
| SEPT 13 | 9:30 AM                          | Sunday School Kickoff<br>Special service for Sunday School and fall Bible Study kickoff. Pot luck lunch following service. |
| OCT 4   | 9:30 AM                          | World Communion Sunday<br>Celebrate church unity and ecumenical cooperation                                                |

North Yarmouth  
Congregational Church

3 Gray Road  
North Yarmouth, ME 04097

# ~ August 2026 ~

| Sun                                                                                 | Mon       | Tue                                                                                            | Wed                                                    | Thu                                                                                                                             | Fri       | Sat                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |           |                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                                                                 |           | <b>1</b>                                                    |
| <b>2</b><br>9:30a Worship<br>At NYCC with<br>Gray and New<br>Gloucester<br>Churches | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                                                           | <b>5</b><br><br>7p AA                                  | <b>6</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>9a Pet Place<br>Pantry                          |
| <b>9</b><br>9:30a Worship<br><br>11a Faith<br>Formation                             | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)<br><br>2p History<br>Team Meeting<br><br>6p Trustees     | <b>12</b><br><br>7p AA                                 | <b>13</b><br>Trivia Night<br><br>5:30p Doors<br>open for Trivia<br>Night<br><br>6p Trivia Night<br>Pot Luck<br><br>6:30p Trivia | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>7:30a Men's<br>Club Breakfast<br>(Toddy Brook) |
| <b>16</b><br>9:30a Worship                                                          | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                                                          | <b>19</b><br><br>7p AA                                 | <b>20</b><br><br>6p Council                                                                                                     | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>                                                   |
| <b>23</b><br>9:30a Worship<br>With<br>Rev. Jane<br>McIntyre                         | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                                                          | <b>26</b><br><br>6:30p Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>7p AA | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                                                   |
| <b>30</b><br>9:30a Worship<br><br>11a Diaconate<br>Meeting                          | <b>31</b> | <b>Lyn will be on vacation 8/10-8/13</b><br><b>Pastor Cynthia will be on vacation 8/18-24.</b> |                                                        |                                                                                                                                 |           |                                                             |

# ~ September 2026 ~

| Sun                                                                                                   | Mon                                 | Tue                                                     | Wed                                                | Thu                                                                            | Fri                   | Sat                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                       |                                     | <b>1</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                    | <b>2</b><br>6:30p Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>7p AA  | <b>3</b>                                                                       | <b>4</b>              | <b>5</b><br>4p Parking Lot<br>Rental-Broader                |
| <b>6</b><br>9:30a Worship<br>In Fellowship<br>Hall                                                    | <b>7 Labor Day</b><br>Church Closed | <b>8</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)<br><br>6p Trustees | <b>9</b><br>6:30p Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>7p AA  | <b>10</b>                                                                      | <b>11 Patriot Day</b> | <b>12</b><br>9a Pet Place<br>Pantry                         |
| <b>13</b><br>Fall Sunday<br>School Kickoff<br>9:30a Worship<br>Back in the<br>Sanctuary               | <b>14</b><br><br>6:30p<br>Missions  | <b>15</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                   | <b>16</b><br>6:30p Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>7p AA | <b>17</b><br>1p Book<br>Discussion<br><br>6p Council                           | <b>18</b>             | <b>19</b><br>7:30a Men's<br>Club Breakfast<br>(Toddy Brook) |
| <b>20</b><br>Homecoming<br>Sunday and<br>Potluck<br><br>8:30a Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>9:30a Worship | <b>21</b>                           | <b>22</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                   | <b>23</b><br>6:30p Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>7p AA | <b>24</b><br>1p Book<br>Discussion                                             | <b>25</b>             | <b>26</b>                                                   |
| <b>27</b><br>8:30a Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>9:30a Worship<br><br>11a Diaconate<br>Meeting            | <b>28</b>                           | <b>29</b><br>10a Tuesday<br>Gals (FH)                   | <b>30</b><br>6:30p Choir<br>Rehearsal<br><br>7p AA | Church Admin. Lyn, will be on vacation<br>from September 21-27 <sup>th</sup> . |                       |                                                             |