

A Note From Jenn



Beloved North Church,

Happy March! The weather is slowly improving, the sun is out a little bit longer each day, and the air is getting warmer all the time. Come on, spring!

As we navigate this Lenten season with broken furnaces, traveling worship services, and a closed building, I'm amazed and grateful for the ways our hearts and minds have been opened as a congregation. We've worshiped differently - we've heard new kinds of music, met new people, received extravagant welcome from two different congregations. We've built new friendships and connections with others, we've learned that while we love our building, the church is so much more than a building.

I just want to say: I'm so proud of and grateful for all of you. For every email that crossed my inbox offering rides, checking in on people, helping out with worship. For every signature on the thank you cards, for every pledge and offering given, for everyone showing up at our events outside of church - what an incredible gift to serve a church that keeps showing up.

As we prepare to return to the building, keep these lessons in mind - these lessons are tools we'll use when we undergo construction in the future. This flexibility is the muscle we'll flex when things change and we need to pivot our plans quickly. It's amazing how, sometimes without us even recognizing it, God prepares us for the road ahead.

Thank God that throughout all of life, God keeps God's promises, God is always faithful. Thank Heavens.

Love,
Jenn





Theology on Tap

Join us for an enriching Theology on Tap session delving into the profound significance of Holy Week. Together, we will explore the traditions and spiritual depth behind this sacred period in Christian faith. Let's gather for insightful discussions, fellowship, and refreshments as we journey through the mysteries of Easter. All are welcome!



March Senior Living Services

Join us for uplifting services with our friends at Webster-at-Rye and Wentworth Senior Living! Experience spiritual renewal and connection as we bring music, communion and fellowship to our friends at both places. All are welcome to celebrate together!

Webster-at-Rye Service: March 18, 2024, 3pm

Wentworth Senior Living Service: March 28, 2:15pm

Organ Loft



Our new organ has been re-scheduled for installation for Wednesday, March 6, so the following service on March 10 will be our first 'look' at the new instrument!



C A B I N E T N E W S

Quick highlights:

- The furnace replacement is in the process of getting scheduled with fingers crossed for the installation to start before the end of this week.

When an analysis was done on the option to repair the current furnace or replace the furnace, it was determined that it was only \$3,000 more to replace the furnace rather than repair it. This, coupled with longer warranty on the new furnace (5 years vs 1 year) and the fact that the timing to replace the furnace was six days while the timing to repair the furnace was six weeks, the determination was made to replace the furnace. This furnace should operate more efficiently and will keep us warm for years to come (we hope!).

With the need to replace the furnace, we have been afforded the opportunity to move some related duct work and take a first step in our fire and life safety code plan that we have proposed to the City of Portsmouth by installing a ceiling for the fireproof mechanical room. The estimated cost of the furnace is close to \$25,000 and will come out of the church operating funds. The cost of the work related to the fireproof mechanical room will be time and materials and will come out of the funds that we have set aside for renovations.

- We continue to await a response from the City of Portsmouth to determine which plan of action we will take - hoping that they accept our code path that alleviates our need to put sprinklers in the building. Once we get the feedback from the City, we will have informational meetings to discuss the process and progress to date and address congregational questions. Upon a final plan approved by the City and pricing received from our contractors, we will announce a date for a congregational meeting to vote to approve the amended plan and required funds. In the interim, please contact anyone on the renovation/construction team (Christine Groleau, Pete Kinner, Doug Woodward) if you have any questions or concerns. Information as to updated plans, pricing, and timing will be communicated to the congregation as soon as it is available.
- Still calling for people to help coordinate the disposal of extra pews. We have run out of storage space in the basement, and it doesn't make sense to keep the pews that we no longer need. We are looking for a home with a better use for them. If you are interested in taking a pew home with you, please let us know. (You are responsible for removal from the church and related transportation.) Also, if your family has a history with one of the pews, but you can't fit a pew in your house, we can remove the pew number and you can hold that as a memento. The Cabinet is currently in contact with a local historic organization to determine how many pews they might be able to use. Beyond that, we plan to contact will area salvage companies to determine their interest. If you have any interest in helping to coordinate the effort to dispose of the pews, please contact Christine Groleau at cgroleau@comcast.net.
- If you are on a committee that has items stored in the basement, please ensure that the items are necessary for current church operations. We would like to do a "clean sweep" of the basement and need the help of all committees, members, and staff to ensure that we are making the best use of our space. Please contact Christine Groleau if you need help removing any items from the basement or have items that might be salable.
- Garden club, anyone? Sue Foye and Barb Bolko presented the Cabinet with a fun and exciting idea about creating a flower pot garden around the outside of North Church. This not only would be a beautiful addition to our property, but could also provide opportunity for fellowship, outreach, community involvement, and mission work. Right now they're in the beginning planning stages. Please check in with Sue and Barb if you'd like to learn more about this for the details and how you might be able to help.
- Become a part of the Cabinet team! We have two members cycling off the Cabinet at the end of June and would love to offer anyone with interest the opportunity to discuss the role and/or attend a meeting.

The furnace certainly threw us for a loop this past month. We could probably come up with a few God-winks in this moment, but I am certain that this has shown us how resilient we are as a church, bobbing and weaving to preserve Sunday services together and pulling together as a congregation to ensure that the life of our church goes on, even without comfortable access to our building.

Many thanks to all who have made this happen and for the flexibility of the entire congregation as we continue on in our work together.

Christine Groleau, Moderator

Attention: North Church Women
Save the Date: March 23, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Place to be determined

"We must always renew and rejuvenate ourselves, otherwise we harden."
-Johann Wolfgang Goethe

Does your mind, body and/or spirit need a little renewal and rejuvenating? Plan on attending North Church Women's retreat. There will be something for everyone.

Questions, please contact Nancy Layton, 603-498-3787 or Njlayton@me.com



Community Service Sunday!



April 7th, 2024
More info to come!

Join Us for Community Service Sunday!

Get ready for a day filled with worship, communion, and serving our community together! We'll gather at 9:30am for breakfast and worship, then we'll split off into groups for service projects. Some folks will travel to sites like Gather, Crossroads, and local trails, while others will stay in the sanctuary for on-site projects. We are looking for people to help lead these working groups, so if you feel a calling to jump in, let the Missions team know ASAP!



Human Needs Sub-Committee

Do you have a heart for those in need in Portsmouth? Are you curious about how we as a church can help people in crisis?

Join us in forming a Human Needs Subcommittee! Together, let's develop processes and protocols for our Human Needs Fund, ensuring effective support for those in need. Your input and compassion will make a meaningful difference in our community. Let's work together to uplift and empower those facing challenges.



Capture the moments! Help tell our church's story online by snapping photos at worship, gatherings, and events. Your images will beautifully illustrate our journey together. Let's create lasting memories!

You can send the pictures to Pastor Jenn at her email address!



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will be meeting on **Wednesday March 20th, 9am at Cafe Espresso**. For information contact Peter Kinner (pckinner@gmail.com) or Paul Kelley (pk-rk@comcast.net)

**NORTH CHURCH AND
THE SALVATION ARMY SOUP KITCHEN**
Liz Good



On the second Monday of each month, North Church members prepare a meatball sub dinner, complete with a hearty salad and an applesauce/fruit cup for our neighbors in need of a hot meal. We are so grateful for those of you who have donated frozen meatballs for this important endeavor. And let me tell you, our meatball subs are very popular and are enjoyed by 30-50 people each month.

North Church has a lengthy history with the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. I can trace it back at least 40 years when Linda Pietrowski, an active member at the time, organized a team of work friends to prepare and serve the meal once a month. Over time, a second team was formed and was led by our beloved Ellen Nickerson. (Someone may have additional information to trace it back even further!) And graciously, both teams allowed our youth groups to jump in and help from time to time. Presently, we have one small team in operation; however, the Salvation Army is always looking for additional teams.

The operation of the Soup Kitchen has changed significantly over the years. Several years ago, Covid disrupted the way that meals were traditionally served. Also, with the sale of the Salvation Army building on Middle Street and their subsequent purchase of a building on Rockland Street, meals are now being served from a Salvation Army mobile food truck. This truck parks each night just prior to 5 pm in the Middle Street Baptist Church parking lot and serves take home meals for those gathered and it seems to work well although I'm worried that many are missing out.

I, along with the Mission Board want to thank Pam and Doug Woodward and Mike and Sue Foye for preparing these meals in their homes and transporting it to the mobile food truck. The Salvation Army's goal is to have a usable kitchen and serving space in their Rockland Street building in near future. It's so important that our neighbors are able to come in from the cold and gather around a table for food and good fellowship. When that happens, won't it be wonderful? And then we will have the opportunity to welcome more volunteers. Let us pray that this will be so!



Bible Study

We have a new day for our weekly Bible study! We will be meeting on Tuesdays at 1pm. Can't wait to see you then! While we are without heat, we will be meeting at **Hearth Market** on the corner of Penhallow and Daniel St.



EASTER FLOWERS 2024



On Easter the church will be decorated with spring flowers & lilies.
Please fill out this form and place in the offering plate or church office by March 17.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

FLOWER	COLOR	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Hyacinths	Blue 6"	\$12		\$
	Pink 6"	\$12		\$
Daffodils	Yellow	\$12		\$
Tulips	Pink 6"	\$12		\$
	Red 6"	\$12		\$
Lilies	6"	\$15		
			GRAND TOTAL	\$

Check All Appropriate:

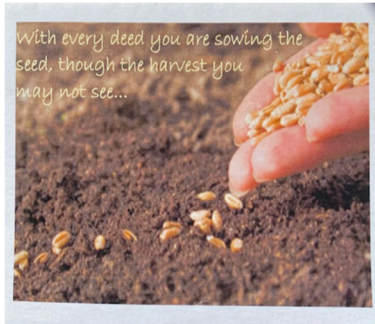
- ☐ In Memory of
- ☐ In Honor of
- ☐ In Celebration of
- ☐ Husband
- ☐ Wife
- ☐ Parents

Other loved one or event:

Name(s):

Please Remember to:

- Include your payment with this order form
- Make checks payable to North Church of Portsmouth with "Flowers" on the memo line
- Take your flowers with you after the service. Flowers will be marked with your name.



Stewardship

Church life is on the move, so it is a good thing to have this monthly update. That which is planned can be modified or changed and life moves forward with flexibility and understanding. We have learned to expect the unexpected and work together thanks to the willingness of everyone.

The annual event of holding a stewardship campaign for the church's upcoming fiscal year usually occurs within the weeks before the annual meeting. This year the plan was to start earlier in an effort to allow for a greater timeframe. However, that has evolved, actually twice due to the unanticipated changes that have occurred since the beginning of the year. Thus the theme, Fruits of Our Labors is exactly on point for us to recognize and adopt as our campaign theme.

At this point in time, the stewardship campaign will begin on April 14 and continue through April 21 wrapping up on April 28. Our campaign activities will begin with a church mailing to members who have attended over the years in addition to those that are newly active. No matter when one becomes involved, there is always a place to be active member here at North Church. The current giving year theme stated, "With every deed you are sowing the seed, though the harvest you may not see" we will move forward to harvest the "Fruits of Our Labors" during this campaign.

As has been our practice, the chart below shows the financial contributions by the month for the past five years. In looking at the totals, we have set a goal to increase our financial contribution to meet a goal of \$120,000.

Monthly Collections	Fiscal Year 2019-2020	Fiscal Year 2020-2021	Fiscal Year 2021-2022	Fiscal Year 2022-2023	Fiscal Year 2023-2024
July	\$21,049	\$13,499	\$ 16,942	\$ 7,950	\$ 12,923
August	\$ 6,068	\$ \$6,131	\$ 5,337	\$ 8,565	\$ 6,951
September	\$ 7,713	\$ 4,835	\$ 6,184	\$ 4,501	\$ 4,749
October	\$ 7,158	\$ 9,493	\$ 6,899	\$ 6,520	\$ 5,735
November	\$ 5,860	\$ 5,678	\$ 4,357	\$ 5,716	\$10,144
December	\$20,395	\$16,325	\$ 6,044	\$11,268	\$ 8,584
January	\$ 6,690	\$11,108	\$ 6,084	\$ 8,380	\$15,325
February	\$ 9,106	\$ 7,108	\$ 4,629	\$ 8,563	
March	\$ 7,119	\$4,871	\$ 5,747.50	\$ 4,943	
April	\$ 7,044	\$ 7,878	\$ 6,389	\$ 6,073	
May	\$ 9,997	\$ 4,648	\$ 5,977	\$ 8,575	
June	\$ 8,034	\$13,520	\$ 8,970	\$ 6,248	
Annual Total	\$116,233	\$105,094	\$83,559.50	\$ 87,302	First seven months \$64,411

We extend heartfelt gratitude for your time, talent and financial donations which contribute to the missions of North Church.

Thank you,
Stewardship Committee: Betty Gilman, Nancy Layton, Mark & Jenny Shaw

MISSIONS NEWS



Gather

The Mission Board supports GATHER by requesting donations of food and personal care items. Items may be placed in the bin on the bench to the right of the church entrance in the narthex at Market Square before or after the Sunday service.



Here are the suggested donation items for this month:

Month	Food Item	Personal Care Item
March	Pasta (Regular and Gluten Free)	Shampoo/Conditioner

**As always, please check dates. Out of date items are not accepted.*

As always, thank you for your continued support of Gather. Your support of our community is greatly appreciated.



The Allan Lurvey Memorial (Seacoast) Crop Hunger Walk 2023 Check Presentation

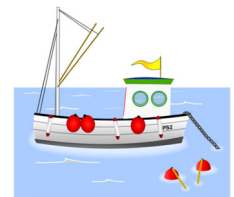


Missions and Pastor Jenn will hand deliver the check for our portion of the Crop Hunger Walk proceeds to a representative of Gather this month. One final thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful accomplishment. It is amazing what we can do when we walk together.

Seafarer's Friend Ditty Bags - Preview

We will be collecting items to fill ditty bags for the Seafarer's Friend during the months of March and April. The goal is to fill 10 ditty bags, 2 for women and 8 for men. Please keep this in mind as you shop for your items. We ask that you keep your items at home until we are back in the church and ready to collect them.

Here are the items requested for the ditty bags:



Razors
Toothpaste
Playing cards
Deodorant
Nail clippers
Socks (2 pair per bag maximum)
1-2 pens or pencils

Shave cream/gel
Toothbrush (1)
Mending kits
Shampoo (8 oz. size bottle)
Soap/body wash (8 oz. size bottle)
Puzzle Books
Feminine Hygiene Products

Floss
Travel sized Kleenex
Shoelaces
Travel-size first aid kit
Small writing pad
Knit hat
Chapstick



Opportunities for Individual Support for the Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

For those who may be looking to ways to individually support the crisis in Ukraine, below are a couple of alternatives:

Church World Services: Go to CWSglobal.org and click on "Donate Now."

Those who knit or crochet may go to <https://www.Ravelry.com> to seek out and purchase patterns by Ukrainian Designers. The funds go directly to the individual designers.



Prayer Shawls

Throughout the centuries, shawls have been made and worn to provide comfort, warmth and protection from the elements.

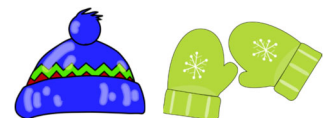
Gifts of Prayer shawls are handmade well wishes for the recipient; offering comfort, warmth and fortification from the emotional elements of the world around us.

Shawls can be gifted for those undergoing medical procedures, as a comfort after a loss, in times of stress, during bereavement, for commitment or marriage ceremonies, as a bridal shower or wedding gift. A prayer shawl may be used for prayer or meditation, in leading a ritual, during an illness and recovery, ministering to others, birthing, nursing a baby, ... the possibilities are endless.

Knitting a prayer shawl can be as comforting for the knitter as it is for the intended recipient. Marcia Leach has put together Prayer Shawl kits for members of the congregation who would like to join her in this ministry. Kits include yarn and a pattern for a shawl. Needles are not included, but she has extra needles if anyone needs them.

Please contact Marcia Leach at mleach991@gmail.com to learn more about Prayer Shawls and how you can become part of the ministry.

Mitten Tree



On Sunday February 18th, we had a blessing for all the donated items from the Mitten Tree. There was a plethora of hats, mittens and gloves for children of all sizes and ages. All the items received were donated to Cross Roads House. Thank you for your generosity in keeping children warm this winter.

MISSIONS NEWS



Seacoast Community Lunch Volunteer Opportunity

Middle Street Baptist Church, 18 Court Street, Portsmouth is looking for volunteers for their Seacoast Community Lunch which is held every Wednesday. Volunteers arrive at 11:15. At 11:30 guests can enter the dining room to enjoy coffee and water while visiting with other guests. Lunch is served 12:00-1:00. Between 1:00 and 1:30 volunteers clean off the tables and chairs.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vicki Walters via email at vickiwa@comcast.net and specify Seacoast Community Lunch in the subject line. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Missions (Betsy Kinner, Jean Crist, Gail Darrow or Martha Labbe)

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen – Meatball Sundays



North Church has a long history with the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in Portsmouth. A big thank you to Liz Good for providing a brief summary of our service to that mission. In honor of the tradition for that mission, we will again energize our “Meatball Sundays” to provide financial support. On the third Sunday of each month, March 17th for this month, we will be collecting a free will offering that will be designated for the supplies needed for our Salvation Army Soup Kitchen crew. Please look for the designated donation boxes at the back of the sanctuary near each entrance.



Silent Movie March 17th at 4pm

We are holding our 2nd Silent Movie event on Sunday March 17 at 4pm. Come watch stars of the silent screen such as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and the Keystone Kops as the skip, slap, and flop through each storyline. With hot popcorn in hand come jeer and cheer as the new organ supplies the musical background with live music!



Birthdays

04-March	Norman Henderson
16-March	Joanne Coleman Yeaton
23-March	Charlene Hodgdon
23-March	Martha Labbe
23-March	Gloria Wennberg

The deadline for the April Bellman is March 25th.



Worship SCHEDULE

**Worship begins at 10am
At Market Square and
On Facebook Live**

**Sunday, March 3
Third Sunday in Lent**

**Sunday, March 10
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Sunday, March 17
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Sunday, March 24
Palm Sunday**

**Sunday, March 31
Easter Sunday**



March 2024

March 2024							April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31							29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00am Worship	8:00am email flower orders to Sue Foye 6:30pm Lenten Book Group via Zoom	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square) 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Mission Board				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12:00am Daylight Savings Time 10:00am Worship	4:00pm SOUP KITCHEN 6:30pm Lenten Book Group via Zoom	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square) 1:00pm Bible Study 6:00pm Cabinet Meeting				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00am Silent Movie 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Silent Movie (Market Square)	3:00pm Webster at Rye 6:30pm Lenten Book Group via Zoom	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square) 10:00am Deacons Mtg 1:00pm Bible Study				9:00am North Church Women's Retreat (tbd)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00am Worship - Palm Sunday	6:30pm Lenten Book Group via Zoom 7:00pm Women's Book Group (MS Sanctuary)	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square) 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Theology on		2:15pm Wentworth Senior Living		
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00am Worship - Easter Sunday						

NORTH CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Church Sanctuary and Office

2 Congress Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603.436.9109 phone
603.436.6744 fax

Sunday Worship

Reverend Jennifer Mazur

Worship is at 10am every Sunday at Market
Square Sanctuary and via Facebook Live

Fellowship Time

Following 10:00 am Service

Church School

(Sept - June) Every Sunday following
Children's Message

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Friday 9am - 2pm

North Church of Portsmouth is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Covenant

We, the members of North Church of Portsmouth welcome all people to be faithful followers of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We believe we should reach out and be open to all people. Therefore, this Open and Affirming statement expresses that which is accepted by our congregation.

"The first [commandment] is . . . 'You shall love The Lord your God with all your soul, and with all your mind, with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31).

Therefore, we work together to support our members, the community and those seeking a place in God's family with the understanding that each is unique. We welcome people of any race, creed, color, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic status, marital status, physical, emotional, mental capacity and those in relationships recognized under God's law.

www.northchurchportsmouth.org

MARCH

North Church of Portsmouth, UCC
2 Congress Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Return Service Requested

