

## A Note From Jenn



Happy May, Beloved!

We've made it! Spring has finally, truly sprung. No more random snowstorms, now it's time for sunshiny days, warm breezes, and time spent outdoors. Can you tell I'm excited??

I love what happens for our church during springtime. We start having Fellowship on the bricks, which means we meet more people out in Market Square. We open our doors for steeple tours, Portsmouth Children's Day, Market Square Day, Portsmouth Pride, and more. Not to mention that we can start having staff meetings outdoors, the walk-and-talks pick back up, and the extra hours of daylight just make life... better? Yes, better.

Part of why I love this season in the life of our church goes back to what Brenda Delfino said during the Stewardship campaign in April. At the end of her Giving Testimony she said: "When I tell people what church I go to they say 'Oh, that's that big steeple in Market Square.' But it's what happens under the steeple that makes us North Church."

Oh Lord. Amen and Amen - am I right?

These spring and summer months present many opportunities to let people in under our steeple, to show others who we are as a church. I feel so proud to be the pastor here, to get to work alongside all of you, and to learn from you each week. I wonder, what have you been learning from each other? What has happened in these last few months, years, decades, under our steeple that has moved your heart or changed your life?

This season, with its bright light and long days, is a great time to begin to tell those stories. Tell those stories to the people who come through our doors. Tell those stories over the kitchen table, or at Fellowship time, or at a committee meeting. Tell the story of North Church, of the life spilling out beneath the steeple - they're stories worth telling, it's a love worth sharing.

Love always,

**Jenn**



## Theology on Tap

Join us on **May 28th** for Theology on Tap! Dive into conversation about the Holy Spirit and explore the mysteries of faith with fellow seekers. It's a wonderful time to connect with one another, make new friends, and seek the Divine!



Bible Study continues at 1pm every Tuesday! Here are a few reasons you might like to join in:

It's fun.

- We have wonderful, lively conversations.
- We take time in prayer and connection with God and each other.
- We learn something new from one another each week.

Interested? Come join in! Time doesn't work for you, but you'd like to participate? Let Pastor Jenn know. If we have enough interested people we'll set up time for another Bible Study gathering.

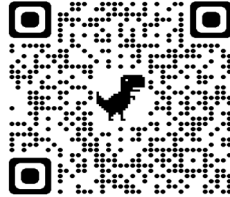
## Ministerial Review



The deadline for returning the 2024 ministry survey has been extended to **May 10th!** If you haven't yet, please ensure that you fill out the congregation-wide survey by May 10. You'll find the link below.

Thank you for participating in this survey! If you would like a hardcopy, please reach out to the office.

<https://form.jotform.com/240954368154159>



## May 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: **May 20th, 2024, 3pm**

Wentworth Senior Living Service: **May 23rd, 2:15pm**



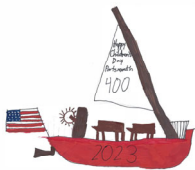
## C A B I N E T   N E W S

### Quick highlights:

- There are no significant updates on our construction this month. We continue to wait for approval from the City, final plans from our architects, and pricing from our builders. (Rest assured that it is not due to lack of effort.) Once we receive this important information, we'll inform the congregation via informational meetings, hopefully in late April, to discuss the construction process, timeline, and address congregational questions. After we have answered your questions, 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) with questions or concerns. Information about updated plans, pricing, and timing will be communicated to the congregation as soon as available.
- The ministerial review team is in full swing. All responses received by April 30 will be included in the review and are currently being processed by the review team. We hope to communicate the findings to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, June 9 following church service. Hope to see you all there!

Many thanks to the members of all of the committees of North Church who keep the church working toward our mission. And thanks to you, the congregation, for your continuous support.

Christine Groleau, Moderator



### PRO PORTSMOUTH'S CHILDREN'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

### VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!

We will once again open our doors to welcome the community in! Many families, residents, and visitors will be entering our sanctuary to participate in decorating a Spring planting pot and join in a scavenger hunt to look for various images in our beautiful stained glass windows. We are expecting large crowds so volunteers are needed to assist. If you are able to commit to a one hour or two hour time slot, please let Pastor Jenn, Gail Darrow, Caroline McMullen or Liz Good know. Help us extend generous hospitality!

Donation items needed: markers, bags of potting soil, sandwich size ziploc bags and small paper bags with handles. Donations can be placed in the box provided in the narthex. Thanks in advance for your help!



## A Peek into the Pulpit

**May 5th, 2024**  
**John 15:9-17**

*This scripture sounds conditional. "You are my friends if you do what I say, act how I say, live how I say." It sounds like Jesus is setting up a test for the disciples to pass. But the question for us in this service is less about passing a test, and more about creating a way of life. What does it mean to abide in God's love? What does it mean to love one another? Can we try and fail and try again?*

**May 12th, 2024**  
**Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-8**

*In this service, we put into practice the phrase: singing is praying twice. We lift up our praises to God with clapping hands, dancing feet, and loud voices - a whole-body kind of worship! Can we take our whole-body worship on Sunday, and bring it with us to our lives the rest of the week?*

**May 19th, 2024**  
**Acts 2:1-21**

*On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate that the Holy Spirit, the helper and sustainer of us all, falls on all flesh and unites people of every age, gender, race and walk of life. This is also Confirmation Sunday, in which we celebrate and welcome our new members into the church, and wonder together about how we can broaden our welcome and greet the spirit in one another.*

**May 26th, 2024**  
**John 3:1-17**

*On Trinity Sunday, we take a moment to rest in and recognize the mystery and beauty of God. God lives in relationship: God, Jesus and the Spirit are three faces of the same being, three interactions with the same divinity. The how and why are a mystery- and thank God, indeed, because with mystery comes faith. With mystery comes more possibility than we could ever imagine on our own.*



## Join the Movement Listening Session

**May 17th at 5pm**  
**North Church Parsonage**

Join us at the Parsonage (217 Spinney Road) for light refreshments and conversation and a visit with Rev. Dr. Velda Love and Sharon Fenemma of the national United Church of Christ. Their visit to our church community is a part of a national listening tour for Join the Movement, aiming to understand more fully the work of racial justice ministry in local UCC churches like ours. We are one of three congregations they will be visiting while they are in New Hampshire. Their aim is to listen to our stories, share resources for the journey ahead and imagine with us what a racially just world might look like. If you're planning to attend, please let Pastor Jenn know!

## North Church Women



North Church women sent Easter cards to the members and friends of North Church who are unable to attend church services.

## Restoration and Continuing Care of the North Church Corporation Cemetery

Our North Church Corporation Cemetery is located on Route 1 South. Traveling South beyond the Walmart lights and before the Heritage set of lights, the cemetery is located on the left side of the road.



North Church is obligated to care for and maintain the cemetery, but for many years the church was not aware of that. Once we became aware of this, many church members cleaned up the site. Ken Lurvey maintained it for many years. Our Boy Scout troop continued the maintenance until a few years ago. Since then Paul Kelly has mown and cared for the cemetery.

At a recent men's breakfast the topic of the cemetery was discussed. The group decided to take this opportunity to make this a community service improvement project with the help of the congregation providing perpetual care.

We are looking for interested volunteers to clean, maintain and care for the cemetery from June to October. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tom Bolko at [bolkonh@comcast.net](mailto:bolkonh@comcast.net) or Paul Kelley at [pkrk@comcast.net](mailto:pkrk@comcast.net).





## Stewardship

We offer blessings and gratitude to all that have participated in the stewardship campaign during the month of April. Over the last three April Sundays, we have read about the importance of North Church in the Sunday bulletin from Tim Kelley, Paul Kelley, and Gay Adams. And we have heard about the importance of stewardship from Brenda Delfino, Caryl Krohne, and David Sanderson. As a result of the Fruits of Our Labors, each of these individuals have shown how and why they have been able to support the harvest in so many facets of church life. It is now that we ask everyone to reflect on your important areas of church as you offer your time, talent and treasure for the coming fiscal year. Together, we each support the whole!

A letter and pledge card should have arrived in the mail at this point in time. This is your opportunity to fill a need and support the missions of North Church by completing the enclosed pledge card. Please return your completed pledge on Sunday morning or by mail in preparation for making decisions at the annual meeting. We are grateful for your support for the missions of North Church today and in the coming year. And we offer our thanks and gratitude to each and every one.

Below is the ongoing account over the recent fiscal years which show the monthly pledged donations made by friends and members of North Church. In looking at the totals, we have set a goal to increase our financial contribution to \$120,000 for the upcoming 2024/2025 budget.

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	\$ 5,069
March	\$ 7,119	\$4,871	\$ 5,747.50	\$ 4,943	\$5,044
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	
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$116,233</b>	<b>\$105,094</b>	<b>\$83,559.50</b>	<b>\$ 87,302</b>	<b>First nine months \$74,524</b>

We extend heartfelt gratitude for your time, talent and financial donations which you regularly donate to the North Church missions.

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
May	Baked Beans	Bug Spray

*\*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



The check presentation for Gather was delayed a bit longer. It will take place on Sunday, May 12th. Please join us on that Sunday to hear a little bit about Gather and to celebrate our success.

## Seafarer's Friend Ditty Bags - Preview

We received an abundance of items for the ditty bags. Many thanks to all who contributed the much-needed supplies. Missions will be filling the ditty bags this month. We will also be in touch with the Seafarer's Friend organization to plan an appropriate delivery date.





## Free Will Offering in Support of World Central Kitchen



A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the free will offering in support of World Central Kitchen on April 14th. Missions agreed to add to the amount received and will be sending a donation of \$500 from the North Church Congregation.



## 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](mailto:mleach991@gmail.com) to learn more about Prayer Shawls and how you can become part of the ministry.

## Salvation Army Soup Kitchen – Meatball Sundays



We had another successful Meatball Sunday in April. Our Salvation Army Soup Kitchen crew will be able to prepare a lot of Monday meals in the coming months thanks to our tremendous generosity.



# MISSIONS NEWS



## Scarf Bombing



Mission Opportunity: Beginning in October and through the end of March 2025 we would like to provide knitted, crocheted, and fleece scarves to anyone who needs them. They can be homemade or purchased. They will be put into individual plastic bags and attached to the fence outside of the church. A tag will be attached to each one stating:

I am not lost! If you're stuck out in the cold, take this gift to keep warm.

Is anyone interested in teaching others to knit or crochet? Is anyone interested in forming a group to knit or crochet together? Scarves can be made at home as well. Knitting/crocheting/sewing patterns can be provided if desired. We will begin collecting the scarves in September to package for placement on the church fencing beginning in October.

Please contact Betsy, Martha, Gail or Jean with questions and/or comments.



## Ukama News

Rev. Mhururu has sent an email with a variety of updates from our partner church, Marondera UCCZ. He reported that the church is doing well with their efforts for the construction of the building. He did report that the church had purchased iron sheets but still needed to obtain timber. Among the recent election of church officers, Christine Peni is the secretary and Mrs. Sit-hole is now the partnership chairperson. In addition to this, erratic rain over their summer months, has caused an outbreak of cholera and a shortage of food supplies for this year.

In other news, it has been determined that a container will not be sent this summer from New Hampshire to Zimbabwe. However, a delegation from New Hampshire will be traveling to Zimbabwe over the summer months lead by Rev. Sara Maren, Associate NH Associate Conference Minister. Rev. Mhururu was hoping someone from North Church would be joining the group, but maybe that can happen another year.

The good news is that this will give us an opportunity to send cards and letters as well as cash by those traveling. If you know of someone to receive your mail, please be sure to clearly write their name and Marondera Church on the envelope. If it is to someone in general, the church name and suggested age range which you would like will be fine. The mail basket that was a gift from Marondera will be available in the vestibule during this month. It is anticipated that a special collection to help with the building or health needs of Marondera UCCZ will be done during May as well.

Let's remember our Partnership in our prayers as they work and live this day!



## Birthdays

01-May	Kevin Pizz
08-May	Ann Grimbilas
10-May	Liz Good
15-May	Pauline Lampert
17-May	Mark Shaw
19-May	Debra Jones

## Anniversaries

Craig & Christine Hodgson May 25

## Worship SCHEDULE

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

**Sunday, May 5**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
*The Sacrament of Communion  
will be Celebrated  
"Abiding in Love"*

**Sunday, May 12**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday, May 19**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**Sunday, May 26**  
**First Sunday After Pentecost**



### Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will be meeting on **May 15th, 9am at Cafe Espresso**. In addition, there will be a Men's Coffee at **Webster at Rye on May 8th at 10 am**.

For information contact Peter Kinner (pkinner@gmail.com) or Paul Kelley at (pk-rk@comcast.net)



### CHURCH SCHOOL CHATTER

**SUNDAY, MAY 5** - Intergenerational worship, no Church School

**SUNDAY, MAY 12** - Ascension Sunday, Mother's Day - Church School in session

**SUNDAY, MAY 19** - Children's/Confirmation Sunday - Church School in session

**SUNDAY, MAY 26** - Memorial Day Weekend - Church School in recess until September



The deadline for the June Bellman is May 28th.

# May 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Worship 12:00pm Pro-Portsmouth Children's Day		10:00am Organ Training 1:00pm Bible Study (Market Square Sanctuary) 6:30pm Mission Board	10:00am Men's Coffee (Webster at Rye (795 Washington Rd, Rye, NH))			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Worship	4:00pm SOUP KITCHEN	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square) 1:00pm Bible Study (Market Square) 6:00pm Cabinet Meeting (Market Square)	9:00am Men's Breakfast (Cafe Espresso)		Join the Movement Racial Justice Event	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship	3:00pm Webster at Rye	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square Sanctuary) 10:00am Deacons Mtg 1:00pm Bible Study (Market Square)		2:15pm Wentworth Senior Living		
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
10:00am Worship	Memorial Day - office closed 7:00pm Women's Book Group (MS Sanctuary)	10:00am Staff meeting (Market Square) 1:00pm Bible Study (Market Square) 7:00pm Theology on Tap (Dough Craft)				

**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

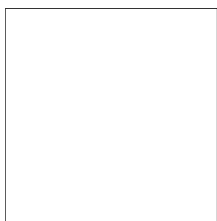
*North Church of Portsmouth is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ  
Open and Affirming Covenant*

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](http://www.northchurchportsmouth.org)



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