



SECONCH

*Second Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Norway, Maine*

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WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAYS @ 10:00 AM

April and May 2024
Greetings from Rev. Sara Bartlet



This is a photo showing my youngest, Tristan, working on one of his inventions. Almost every piece of it has come to my house from our, or another church's, rummage sale. If you look it over, you'll see an old bucket, a kayak seat, a bike bag, a golf bag push cart, and a variety of other items. While Tristan continues to think outside the box and tweak his idea, he anticipates how it will turn out, and how he will be able to use this new "machine" to his advantage.

This got me thinking...what do each of us bring home from church? I don't necessarily mean material things like in the photo, but rather what concepts do we take home? Concepts like companionship, spirituality, or new ways of understanding faith. I ask this question as one of the purposes of our time together is not only to serve others, but also to allow others to serve us. Yes, we are invited to truly be vulnerable and allow others to give us something which we can take to make our lives more meaningful. Perhaps someone at church taught us how to make a new dessert or comforted us when we were in pain, or made us laugh.

My question for you to ponder this spring. How have others at Seconch made your life better?

Our invitation this spring: allow others

News from Youth and Family

Sunday School Calendar Spring 2024

Wednesday April 17th 1-5 pm

Sunday school will be hosting fun activities for all! FMI please speak with Melissa.





SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

205 MAIN STREET, NORWAY, ME

TICKET AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

VIEWING: 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

AUCTION STARTS 5:15 P.M.

This ticket auction is a fundraiser to help with funds needed to update our church's sound system.

Many gift items, collectibles, antiques, homemade baked goods, gift certificates & more!

Save this date, bring your friends and family to this fun auction event!

Food and drinks will be available to purchase during the ticket auction!

Many ticket envelope options to fit every budget!

\$1.00 ticket option available for special items!

50/50 tickets will also be available

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS GREAT TICKET AUCTION

News from the Trustees

Sound System Fundraising Update:

Our application for the \$5,000 RLC grant through the Maine Conference has been submitted and we should hear back from them by the end of the month. This grant will help us to have the funds to update the sound system this summer. Donations for the sound system are welcome and can be made at any time. Please put "Sound System" in the memo part of your check. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Bruce and Pam Davison or Melissa Wood. Thank you for your support!

Ticket Auction:

We will be having a ticket auction to raise funds for the Sound System update on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Viewing will be from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. with the auction starting at 5:15 p.m. We are still looking for items and welcome any donations. Check out the clearance items at the places you shop! We need homemade baked goods, we have some nice plates and containers that you can fill! Homemade items are big sellers at our ticket auctions. We will have some special items for our \$1.00 a ticket section. If you have any items that you do not use, we are always looking for items to add to various baskets. We will have items geared to children and adults.

We will also be selling food items on the menu during the sale. Are you available to help on the day of the ticket auction? We will be offering 50/50 tickets and need someone to help with selling them. Help is needed during the viewing time and during the auction to deliver items won to the winner. Would you be willing to purchase and donate a gift certificate from a local business, restaurant?

If we receive the \$5,000 grant from the Maine Conference, this ticket auction should bring in the last funds we will need to complete phase one of our sound system update. This will allow the church to complete this phase with no cost impacting our budget or our investments! Won't that be great!

Included in this Seconch, is a flier for the ticket auction. Please feel free to post it where others can see it and also share our FaceBook announcements with your friends and family! If you can help in any way, please speak with Pam or Bruce Davison. Thanks for your support!

Trustee Report:

Keith Tilsley has been installing security cameras around the building. All new smoke detectors and Co detectors have been installed. Flanders Electric will be submitting an estimate for exit signs. Melissa Wood is going to share some other options that may help to reduce the estimate with exit signs that won't require so much electrical work. Our furnace has been cleaned for the year. Please reach out to our Trustees if you see anything that needs attention.

Thanks,

Keith Tilsley, Keith Ladner, Randy Butters, Melissa Wood, Kate Wood, Pam Davison

Trustees meeting are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

News from the Music Committee



News from the Deacons



Wonderful Lenten and Easter Services were held for 2024!!
Thank-You to everyone who helped make this meaningful for all.

Deacon's are still looking for a couple of people to help during Sunday Services and other duties. Please speak with Deb Fickett for more information.

Free Suppers Updates



Our next drive thru free supper will be held on April 19th with an American Chop Suey. As always, we are looking for donations of dessert – brownies and a variety of cookies and bars are favorites. Desserts can be dropped off at the church on Thursday, 4/18 or Friday, 4/19, before 4 p.m. Anyone who would like to package and serve the meals is welcome anytime after 3:30 on Friday with serving starting at 5. The kitchen crew always has a good time. We welcome anyone who would like to help with this long standing mission of feeding people in the Oxford Hills.

News from the Mission Committee

We collected \$190 in March for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, one of the UCC's 5 for 5 offerings. Through this collection, we are able to expand our missions outside of the Oxford Hills, supporting UCC programs that sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the US and around the world. Thank you for your help.

In April and May, we will continue our traditions of collecting “kid friendly food” to distribute to the students in area schools. These snacks will be given to teachers to hand out in their classrooms. They include (but not limited to) granola bars, fruit snacks and cups, applesauce, and peanut butter and crackers. Items may be left in the grocery cart at the top of the ramp. If you prefer to have us do the shopping, you may make a monetary donation, indicating “kids’ snacks” on the memo line or place money in the Missions jar. The Mission Committee appreciates your continuing support as we carry out Second Congregational Church’s mission of helping children in our community with food insecurities.





April

| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 4 | Muriel Myers | | |
| 4 | Melissa Wood | 14 | Keith & Debbie Ladner |
| 6 | Bob Fickett | | |
| 8 | Josh Bribst | | |
| 8 | Susan Prindell | | |
| 15 | Mary-Jane Robichaud | | |
| 25 | Andrew Fickett | 21 | Laura Gouin & Eric Belcher |
| 30 | Sarah Ladner-Apolio | | |

May

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Eric Munn | | |
| 2 | Pam Williams | | |
| 6 | Eric Belcher | | |
| 10 | Helen Heath | | |
| 13 | Keith Ladner | | |
| 16 | Glenn Wood | | |
| 18 | Jody Deegan | | |
| 19 | Laura Gouin & Alexander Wood | | |
| 21 | Paul Allen | | |
| 22 | John Ellis | | |
| 27 | Caitlin Shibles | | |
| 31 | Marcus Hatch | | |

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

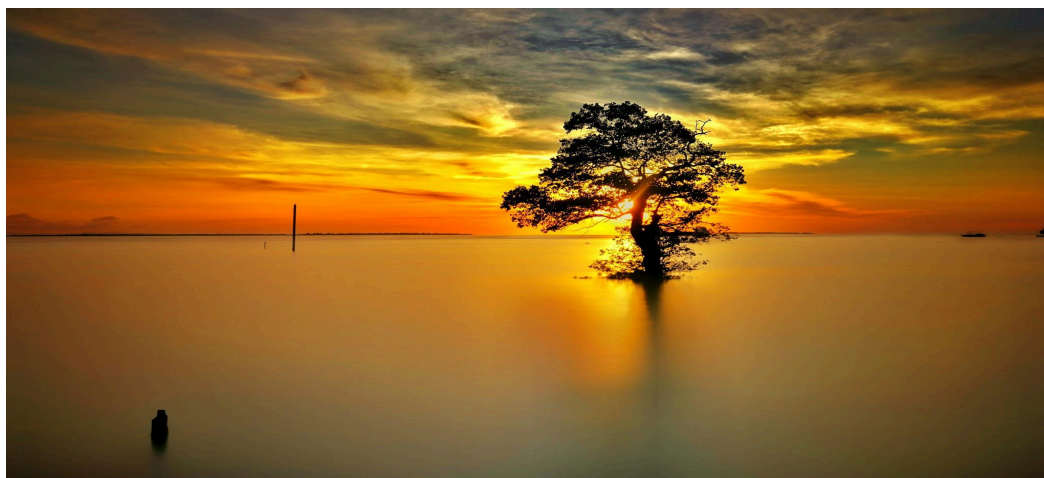


Please feel free to join us for Tea-ology on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:00. We have wonderful and meaningful conversations as we share in this time of Fellowship. We meet at Jane Munn's home and /or the Church. All are Welcome!

Visual Journaling

Our next gathering will be on April 20th from 10:00 to 1:00. Please bring your favorite pens and your supplies from last time. (We will have additional journals if you forget) Remember this is a stress free activity for all abilities. Hope to see you there.

Our theme is Hope, so bring images, cards, poems that bring you



HOPE.

Our May gathering will be on May 18th, 10:30 to 1:00

*** Our next Secconch will be for June, July and August. So please look ahead on your calendars and gather all your dates for the SUMMER. Please have your articles in by the 25th of the May for the next Newsletter pamwilliams01@yahoo.com**

Please send items to post in the next SECONCH, Joys and Concerns, Family News, are all Welcome!

We are an Open and Affirming Church.

Approved by the Congregational vote October 2009

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are WELCOME here”