



The Clapper



**SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Pastor: The Rev. Brad Hirst

February 2020
www.2ccucc.org
(207)439-3903

Lenten Sabbath

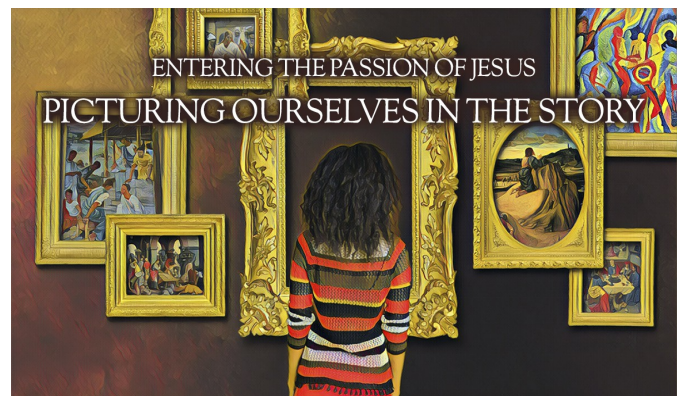
Lent doesn't begin until the end of the month, but we wanted to get the news out to you now. For the first time since anyone can remember, our Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick ecumenical Lenten worship series will be taking a sabbatical this year. A number of factors went in to this painful decision, which, while regrettable, will provide the clergy and our respective communities the opportunity to evaluate its place in our common lives and discern the right path forward. We are still hoping to gather together for joint Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services, and perhaps have a fellowship/learning event somewhere in the middle. More details will follow as they become available.

In the meantime, please take some time to explore what place these worship services have had in your Lenten journeys through the years. Reflect on what value it had for you and for our churches. What about it will you miss? In our ever-changing world, might its absence leave space for something new to be created?

Church Vitality Team

Speaking of creating something new... Following a workshop several of us attended back in the fall, we have "dusted off" our Church Vitality Team! Continuing the excellent work we started several years back this will help us all reach new people with the good things happening here at Second Christian and help us practice using our gifts of Invitation, Welcome, and Hospitality! Our Team is made up of Tom Baran, Linda Baran, Alan Robinson, Don Tirabassi and Maren Tirabassi, and there might just be a spot for you! Ask us about it, or watch for our next meeting out in the community!

Lenten Worship Series:



Here at Second Christian we will have our own Sunday Lenten Worship Series. Many of us found great meaning in two worship series we enjoyed in the past: *Gifts of the Dark Wood* (Lent) and *God Bless Us, Every One* (Advent), so we thought we'd do it again. Author Marcia McFee describes *Entering the Passion of Jesus* this way:

"The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus, and yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message? Inspired by Amy-Jill Levine's book by the same name." (A few copies are available for review)

Please plan to be with us this Lent as we walk with Jesus through those final days in Jerusalem and find our own place in the story. And, as always, invite a friend!

From the Pastor

Midwinter 2020

In our *liturgical year*, our Church Year, the Season After Epiphany leads us to Lent. Ash Wednesday, the

beginning of the Season of Lent, is not till the end of February this year, so this is a relatively long season after Epiphany. In this in-between time our scripture lessons point us to themes of light and discernment and direction. We re-discover who Jesus is, what he is all about, how he called his first disciples, and how we might respond to his call on our lives.

This year back on Epiphany Sunday – the day the magi's Star-following journey finally brought them to meet the Christ child – we each received a Star with a word printed on it – our own, one-of-a-kind *Star Word*. The hope is that these words might confirm in us something we have sensed God doing in our lives or spur us on to do things and go places where we might not otherwise have gone. I got *Safety*. Safety? Honestly, I was hoping for something a little more...exciting, bold, out there, a Word that might point me toward the next chapter of our ministry together here at Second Christian. I got *Safety*. I did not see that coming!

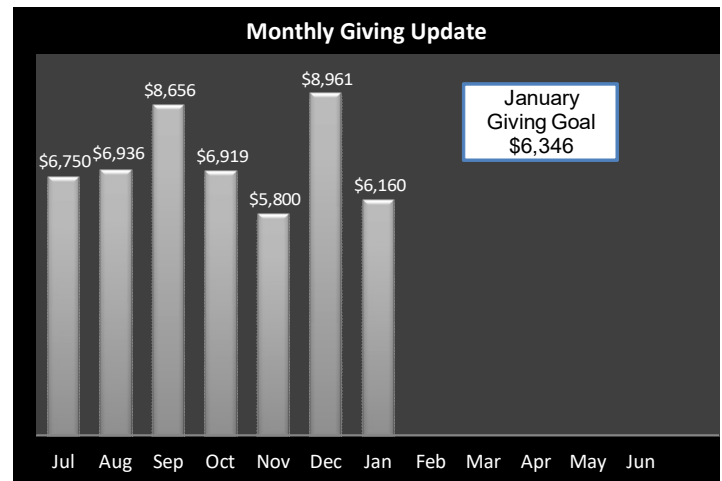
As I said on that Sunday morning, if your *Word* isn't speaking to you right away, just sit with it, pray over it, be like a good bread dough and let it rise and see where it goes. So I took my own advice and did just that. Then last week somebody pointed to the *safety pin* on my coat – one that I put on there a few years ago to let people know (and to remind me) that I was a *safe person*, that I would risk standing up to bullying or hatred or injustice. So I allowed for the possibility that maybe it wasn't supposed to be about me! Maybe it's not about *my* safety, but the safety of *others*. Go figure!

During this season after Epiphany we've been singing "Let Your Little Light Shine" at the close of worship - "...*Let your little light shine, all night long, 'cause you know there's someone down in the valley tryin' to get home.*" That is our vocation, that is what we are called to do and who we are to be. Be the Church. Be the light. Let it shine.

See you on the Way,



Faith Promises & Offerings:



The vertical bars represent the actual offerings received each month, as of Jan. 26, 2020.

2020 Fellowship Dues

Fellowship Dues help support the mission and ministry of both the Maine Conference and your York Association. Your support of the Maine Conference enables our common ministry to: provide pastoral leadership for churches experiencing pastoral transition; engender continuing education and nurture to both clergy and laity; operate outdoor ministries for youth and adults; manage crisis support; provide youth leadership development, small church guidance, and many other ministries.

Fellowship Dues are calculated based on our Active Membership List as presented in our 2019 Annual Report which states that we have 90 Covenant Members. In addition to the formally reported membership, the Maine Conference invites each church to determine the number of participating community members – those who are not enrolled church members but who regularly attend worship. It is up to each church to make this calculation and contribute accordingly.

All members and friends are invited to contribute \$16.86 per person to help offset our 2020 Fellowship Dues and support the work of our Maine Conference.

Please make a note on your offering envelope that you are making a donation toward your Fellowship Dues. For more information, please speak to Charlie Donnell, or Pastor Brad.

Council Meeting January 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order 6:30 PM.

Present: John Marzinzik, Laurie Rowan, Alan Robinson, Kathy Runey, Linda Baran, Brad Hirst, Charlie Donnell, Ernie Wiswell, Priscilla deRochemont. Absent: Dawn Boyer, Kathy Maloney, Don Tirabassi, Tom Baran. Minutes of Dec. 19, 2019 were accepted as read. The Church is in a good place financially.

Old Business: Safety team is working on plans. The Vitality team is working on ideas for improving the growth of the Church. Don & Maren Tirabassi have joined the team. We will ask RJS Construction to revisit his bid for kitchen plans. Plans for a new Pastor's office were discussed. Most of that work can be done in-house. Alan will draw up plans. Ernie and Alan will make shelving to ensure that old church records are properly stored.

New Business: Pastor Brad reminded the Council that he is due for a sabbatical this year. He's looking at late summer or early fall of 2020. The company that monitors the parking lot would like to use registration plate numbers as identifying means. Brad will contact the Company. Ministry Team Reports: Deacons – we will not be having combined Lenten services with the Kittery-Eliot Clergy Assn. this year. There may be joined Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Services and maybe a pancake breakfast on a Saturday with a speaker during Lent. We will have a special Lenten series on Sundays.

Trustees: Alan is dealing with needed repairs. It was recommended we get a new oil barrel as the current one is wearing out. Brad and Alan are researching keyless entry options. The idea of paving the parking lot was mentioned. A lock box will be installed on the exterior of the building for emergency worker access.

Welcoming: Linda and Cheri Sherman continue to put together welcome bags, etc. Going Out: We will serve at Table of Plenty on 3/12 and 5/7. Super bowl subs will again be made and sold on Feb. 2. It was suggested that we pass out "coupons" to the neighbors and public servants for a free sub, as a way of them getting to know us better.

We adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla deRochemont, Scribe

Deacons Meeting January 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Ernie at 7pm following a telephone coaching session led by Paul Nickerson. Present: Brad Hirst, Alan Robinson, Linda Wentworth, Laurie Rowan, Sharon Wiswell, Ernie Wiswell, Diana Marzinzik, Tom Baran, Linda Baran and John Marzinzik by the Portal.

Tom Baran offered a prayer and Sharon volunteered for February's prayer share. Linda Wentworth is this month's secretary and Laurie volunteered for next month. November minutes were approved.

The December meeting was held at Pastor Brad's home where rich and rewarding discussions were held.

Old Business: Deacon of the month is Tom Baran and alternate Sue Czarnionka. Deacon of the month for February is Sharon and alternate John Grindle.

Several names were brought up who were in need of our prayers and visits. We were asked to keep these folks all in our prayers.

The Safety Committee is considering a training program by Dirigo Safety, a law enforcement organization, being held in Lewiston.

We will be honoring individuals occasionally, perhaps in February. Please suggest names to Brad or one of the Deacons.

The green folder upstairs lists the deacon duties. Please review them. When a kitchen helper serves as an usher, they should get a substitute so they can leave early for set up downstairs. Ushers need to be upstairs until the end of the service, to give out gift bags and talk with guests. Suggestions were made for the newcomer gift bags to include a card for the guest's name, phone number, and email or a prayer request card. Perhaps the gift bag should be given at the beginning of the service.

New business: Updates for the church directory can be emailed to 2CCUCC or sent in a note, or notify us at the church service.

The sanctuary clock needs to be replaced. There were no objections from those present.

We reviewed the Communion schedule for 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wentworth

The Christmas Fund

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this year's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund of the United Church of Christ. Together we contributed \$707.00 to help provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees. What an amazing demonstration of extravagant generosity! Way to go!

February Second Sunday Jazz

Featured Musician

Continuing our exploration of female jazz composers, this month we'll feature **Anna Webber** (b. 1984) a New York-based flutist, saxophonist, and composer whose interests and work live in the overlap between avant-garde jazz and new classical music. Originally from British Columbia, Webber studied music at McGill University in Montreal before moving to New York City in 2008. She holds master's degrees from both Manhattan School of Music and the Jazz Institute Berlin. Reedist Anna Webber, a Brooklynite by way of British Columbia, is one of the most exciting new arrivals on the New York avant-garde jazz scene in the past couple years. ...her detail-rich writing recalls the work of elders as disparate as Tim Berne and Henry Threadgill, and her busy motion evokes a fizzy sort of exhilaration.

As the Page Turns...

This month our Second Christian book club is reading and discussing *The Last Road Trip* by Gareth Crocker. Following the poignant death of a man they barely knew, four friends decide to make the most of what's left of their lives. Abandoning the humdrum routine of life at their retirement estate, they embark on a thousand-mile road trip that will take them from the furthest corner of the Kruger Park to the blazing stars of Sutherland for the biggest adventure of their lives and one last hurrah together. Along the way, they rediscover things about themselves that they thought had long since been lost. Above all, they discover that it's never too late to start living. Gareth Crocker's latest novel is all heart and page-turning glory.

Join us Thursday, February 20 at 6:30pm. And be sure to bring a friend!

The Book of Life:

Dorothy Langton – November 19, 2019

Mildred Leland – December 25, 2019

Gratitudes...

Thank you Second Christian Church, Pastor Brad, friends and family, and Jackie Dewey for the recognition I received on Sunday Nov. 17. My church, Pastor Brad has played a large part in my outreach projects. Jackie has been a great source of information for me with "Dress a Girl Around the World". Thank you to everyone from the bottom of my heart, overwhelmed, but appreciative. The fall flower arrangement was special, beautiful. Back to the sewing machine... With love, Wilma

*Pastor Brad, Charlie and all,
Thank you so much for your donation to A House for ME from the proceeds of the recent Will Ogmundson concert held at the church.
Dennis Dean, Executive Director*

Offering Envelopes are Available

We apologize for the delay, but our 2020 Offering Envelopes are now available. If you currently do not use envelopes but would like to start, please contact the church office, and we will be happy to assign you one. Likewise, if you are assigned envelopes but no longer use them because you are giving online, let us know and we'll free that one up for someone else.

Serving Our Neighbors

Our Second Christian Church family serves the community in many ways! Have you found the place "*where your deepest joy and the world's greatest need meet*"? Maybe serving our neighbors at **Table of Plenty** is the place for you! We are looking to grow our team serving a delicious meal on Thursday afternoons every six weeks or so. Our next date to serve is March 12 and we'd love to have you join us! Talk to Laurie Rowan or Diana Marzinzik for more information.

Hearts and Crafts!

Our crafting group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Please join us February 9 for fellowship and craft work at 9:00 am right here at the church. *No experience is necessary and All are Welcome!*

Reminder: We collect food for FOOTPRINTS and END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH – this month it's February 9!

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Sharon Wiswell & John Grindle

February Ushers:

02 Charlie & Nadine Donnell
 09 Sharon & Ernie Wiswell
 16 Priscilla & Orville deRochemont
 23 John & Edith Grindle

February Greeters:

02 Ernie & Sharon Wiswell
 09 Charlie & Nadine Donnell
 16 Tom & Linda Baran
 23 Edie Niles & Paulette Beers

February Liturgists:

02 Maren Tirabassi
 09 Alan Robinson
 16
 23 Laurie Rowan

Go to our [Sign-up Page](#) to help us fill any open spots!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Bill Baran	Molly Banville	Aidan James
Ann Grinnell	Travis Belleville	Pattie Hamlin
Nita Mitchell	Matt	Michele Swisher
Emma Pearson	David Raitt	Montana Wiswell

If you are aware of anyone who should be added to or taken off our prayer list, please contact the [church office](#).

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Taylor Baran
February 4	Kevin Raynes
February 10	Sharon Fecteau
February 13	Betty Baran
February 16	Sonny Boyd
February 17	Cathy Heal
	Kieran Cole
February 27	Paulette Beers

Are you on Facebook?

“Like Us” so we can share the good news about Second Christian with our friends!



Don't forget to visit our [ONLINE CALENDAR](#) FOR UP TO THE MINUTE INFO

Lectionary Readings for February

Feb. 2 Mic 6:1-8, Ps 15, I Cor 1:18-31, Matt 5:1-12

Feb. 9 Isa 58: 1-9a,(9b-12), Ps 112:1-9 (10), I Cor 2:1-12 (13-16), Matt 5:13-20

Feb. 16 Deut 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20. Ps 119:1-8, I Cor 3:1-9, Matt. 5:21-37

Feb. 23 Ex. 24:12-18, Ps 2 or Ps 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matt 17:1-9

What is your *Star Word*?

Where is it leading you?

How can we walk with you on your journey?

If you don't have your *Star Word* yet, it not too late!

Take one off the bulletin board in the Vestry... there's one there with your name on it!