



## North Yarmouth Congregational Church, UCC Weekly News March 3, 2021

### **Gathering Space Hour with Pastor Nancy**

Meet Nancy on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 am in the Gathering Space. Bring your own coffee and come and chat!

### **Message from Pastor Nancy**

If you or someone you know is struggling in our community, please ask them to email me so we can assess how NYCC church family can help. Thanks, Nancy  
nyccevnancy@gmail.com

### **A Blessing**

Somewhere, in this day, there is a blessing waiting for you. I think it was placed there by the more mischievous angels, but maybe that is only in my imagination. The blessing, however, is real. It is a small moment of grace, a restoration of your faith in humanity, a sign of healing in your life, waiting somewhere in the hours ahead, waiting to appear before you like a field of wildflowers along a busy highway. The presence of the holy is always there, hiding in plain sight. All we have to do to find it is open our hearts and still our minds. The angels will take care of the rest.

Steven Charleston

*Please keep the following people in your prayers*

**Terri Bickford**

**Sharon and Ernie Clark**

**Marion Goff** is at New England Rehab, Rm 213A , 335 Brighton Ave., Portland, Maine 04102 if you would like to send a card.

**Judy Maddox**

**Blanche and Jim Mays**

**Cindy Tompson**

**Lisa Schumaker**

### **Diaconate/Trustees Meeting**

The Diaconate and Trustees will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at 6 pm via Zoom.



Put your clocks ahead by one hour before bedtime on Saturday night the 13th.

## **March Muffin Sunday!**

Let's celebrate! It's confirmation Sunday!!!! And it's March muffins Sunday! Let's get together at 11:30 am Sunday, March 7, 2021 in the church parking lot - masked and maintaining social distancing. Bring a dozen of your favorite muffins to share. Take home six muffins made by others and we will make up gift boxes to take to our home bound with the extras you all bring. You might also want to bring or mail a cheery note to each member of the confirmation class.

## **Coffee with Friends, Lent 2021**

Next Monday, March 8, 2021, we will begin our pilot distance learning book club entitled, Coffee with Friends. The topic for discussion will be personal prayer and we will be reading Fr. James Martin's New York Times best seller, Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone. Regardless if you are new to personal prayer or nearly a mystic, I think you'll find many useful insights to enhance your spiritual life.

What makes Coffee with Friends different is that instead of meeting face-to-face on a specific day, time, and location, we will be meeting "virtually" online, at a day and time of your convenience using Google Classroom. Additionally, unlike Facebook or other social media platforms, Google Classroom has the advantage of added privacy. Only those who "enroll" in the "course" have access to whatever is posted or uploaded to the class. Google Classroom can be accessed online using your computer at [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) or you can download an Android or iOS Google Classroom app for your phone.

How Coffee with Friends works is pretty simple. Each Monday beginning March 8th I will post a brief 3 to 5 minute video summarizing the week's scheduled readings and offering a few reflection questions to get the conversation going. At your convenience you can post your thoughts, questions, insights, bemusements, wonderings to the group. Anyone enrolled can read, comment, or respond. You can also upload links to items you have found helpful or useful that you would like to share with the group in the resource section.

All that is required to enroll in Coffee with Friends is to have an active Google account and to complete an enrollment process. Both are at no cost. There are no signup fees nor will any banking information be requested. Detailed instructions are here - [How to Enroll Information Sheet](#). If you have any difficulties please email me for added support or better still you might ask your school age child or grandchild who probably already are Google Classroom experts by now.

Again, the web-based address is: [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com). Search for the course entitled, "Coffee with Friends, Lent 2021." The enrollment or access code is `adkhgex`. If you have difficulties enrolling yourself, please send me an email. If you know of any friend or relative who may be interested, please feel free to forward this email to them.

Thanks for considering joining us for our pilot on-line book club. I'm looking forward to learning with you.

## ***Gift to the Church***

The church has been given a very generous bequest from our friend Pat Field in the amount of \$75,000 for which we are very grateful. Council voted to accept the gift and are in the process of depositing the check in a certificate of deposit at TD Bank (the church's bank) which yields .10% for a term of 3 months. In the meantime, all committees should consider in the months to come what this gift can do for our church and its ministries.

Marsha Heath, Moderator

## **Confirmation Sunday is March 7th!**

You won't want to miss it!

We have six members of our 2020-21 confirmation class:

Emma Bickford, Sam Dudek, Caroline Rose, Grace Rose, Hadley Smith, Nora Strawbridge

The music for worship has been chosen by them, they are doing the readings, and each is presenting their confirmation project, a reflection of what our 'God Welcomes All!' song means to them - these are all very thoughtful and unique to each of them. After a challenging year of meeting during a pandemic, they met with the Diaconate a couple of weeks ago. Emma is reconfirming her confirmation of 2017; Caroline has decided she is not ready for confirmation at this time and is covenanting to continue to explore her faith and participate in the Ministries of NYCC; Sam, Grace, Hadley and Nora are being confirmed and welcomed into NYCC membership. It is a joyful worship service- don't miss it virtually at 9:30 this coming Sunday, March 7, 2021. Pastor Nancy

## **Help for the Homeless**

As I write this I have just experienced the coldest day of our winter in Portland. Thank you all for the abundance of winter duds - they are greatly appreciated. As I am well stocked with winter gear and I know spring is coming soon, please do not bring me anymore winter things. As we get into spring, I will let you know what the needs are. We do however always welcome/need \$5 Dunkin Donut cards and \$10 cards for Hannaford, Market Basket, and Shaws. Thank you for all your wonderful support! Pastor Nancy