

## North Yarmouth Congregational Church, UCC

**Please keep the following people in your prayers**

Eric and Amy Austin and family on the passing of their daughter Hannah

Sheila Babcock, Pet Pantry Patron

David and Michelle Bickford

Terri Bickford

Candy Burgess

Carol Davis

Louisa and Karl Gerstenberger

Sandra & Vince Golonka

Nolan, Soph and Zeb Green

Blanche Mays

Steve Quentel, Lori Martin  
& Kaitlin Quentel

Rey and Ellen Medrano

Cindy & Bill Tompson

Nancy White

**Dear Beloveds of God,**

My heart and prayers are with you. I hope everyone weathered this last storm alright. It was a scary one between the ice, snow, power outages, and downed trees. After a few days of hunkering down, it was an absolute joy to be able to gather and worship together on Sunday. If you know of anyone who needs extra assistance or is in need generally, I hope you remember our Deacon's Fund and our mission to serve all of our neighbors as best we can.

Soph and I have really good news. Nolan is out of the hospital and has gained much of the weight that the doctors wanted to see. She remains a vibrant and alert baby. Nolan didn't seem fazed by her ordeal. We are beyond grateful for all the prayers and support. We had planned on Easter Sunday being her debut in the church, and I had to tell Nolan, "If you didn't want to go to church, you could have chosen a less drastic way to tell us than going to the hospital."

This Sunday, we will explore Jesus' mission to the disciples to go out into the world, preaching forgiveness to all people and nations. When we look at all the suffering in the world, forgiveness can appear overly naive. Jesus knew suffering, and in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' final words on the cross were words of forgiveness, and his final commission to the disciples was to forgive. Jesus calls us to forgive even the unforgivable, and we'll explore how we can begin living in that mission.

Our readings this week are 1 John 3: 1-7 and LUke 24: 36-48.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Zeb

**From the office**

If you are the last person out of the building after church on Sunday, please make sure that both outside Gathering Space doors are locked. Thank you!

**Patriots Day**

The church will be closed on Monday, April 15 in observance of Patriots Day.

## **NYCC STREET MINISTRY...DID YOU SAY DRUGS!?**

It is simply amazing how helpful folks are in prepping the lunches for our Portland trip. They have the routine down pat! Donna has baked the cookies, Priscilla's bagging the grapes, Susan E. is filling the dessert baggies, Grace is "organizing", Caroline and Marsha are making the sandwiches, (they let me twizzle the mustard, which was great fun) and in a very short time we packed the car and were off. We did not know where we would find folks who could use a lunch, but we knew they would probably not be clustered together in an encampment. Many are in a shelter at night but have to leave the shelter very early in the morning.

It didn't take long before we saw them at intersections with their "help me" signs, or sitting on the sidewalk wrapped in sleeping bags etc. We would pull up to the curb and offer lunches. It wouldn't take long before we'd have several customers. Again they were so polite and gave us their blessings. Very sweet.

As we were about to leave the area we met a young man walking toward us and we had one bagged lunch left. We offered it to him, he declined, and walked on by. Very quickly he turned back toward us and said, " did you say drugs?" and headed toward the car. Obviously, what we had to offer was not what he wanted at that time.

It was a good trip, not as easy to offer clothing when we are parked on busy city streets so we came home with most of the socks, gloves and hats that we started with. We will keep folks posted as to what the needs are when we figure out the best way to distribute them in town.

Thank you so much for the many ways you help with this ministry.  
Tons of blessings to you,

Caroline and Jeanne

## **Food Pantry Donations**

The Grocery Cart in the Gathering Space has been the collection spot for much needed food for our neighbors. Communion Sunday has been our Sunday for food collection but drop off of food is welcome anytime. Thank you for filling the cart so many times. Below is an updated list of the most needed food items. (3/24)

Reusable bags | Canned fruit peaches | Pineapple | Mandarin oranges | Tuna fish | Peanut butter | Jam /jelly  
Chicken ramen noodles | Instant potatoes | Chicken and beef soups | Chowder & beef stews  
Broth, veg. beef, chicken | Spaghetti' Os/Ravioli | Spaghetti/Angel hair/ pasta | Hamburger helper  
Spaghetti sauce | Crackers | Coffee reg. Med | K-cups reg. Med | Hot Cocoa | Brownie mix | cake mix/Frosting  
Pancake mix/muffin mix | Condiments  
Mayo/Ketchup | Kids Cereal and granola | Oatmeal packets  
Jell-O and pudding mix | Protein drinks | School snacks | Granola bars | Juice individuals and family size  
Chips | Pretzels | Tortilla Chips

This food is distributed where it is most needed. Currently the food is sent to two places. The Community Food Pantry and the Harrison Food Bank. The Community Food Pantry serves families from North Yarmouth, Cumberland, Pownal, and New Gloucester. The number of families using the pantry has increased this year to over 95 families per week. NYCC members and friends have supported the pantry with food donations, money donations and volunteer time. The Harrison Food Bank serves families in Western Maine. The number of families served per week has grown from 200 to over 800 in the past few years. We have supported the Food Bank with food donations and money donations from the Missions Fund.

Thank you for your generosity. We are helping many families in our area put food on the table.

## **Clothing Ministry**

Happy Spring. A quick note to let you know that the Clothing Ministry is changing. Springing forward, the Clothing Ministry will collect basic clothing to be given out by the NYCC Street Ministry to people living outside.

The most asked for items this spring are listed below. If you are so moved, please leave your donation in the Gathering Space of the church.

**Socks**

**New Underwear**

**T-shirts**

**Spring Coats**

**Sneakers**

**Baseball Hats**

**Going forward, if you have other clothing to donate, you might consider donating to the organizations listed below. If you have questions about these organizations, the locations, items collected or hours to donate, please email Tracy, [tdahlgren1140@gmail.com](mailto:tdahlgren1140@gmail.com) or check out their websites.**

Maine Needs

<https://www.maineneeds.org/>

332 Forest Ave,  
Portland, ME

The Salvation Army,

<https://satruck.org/>

Salvation Army Family Store  
1225 Roosevelt Trail  
RAYMOND, ME, 04071  
Salvation Army Thrift Store  
30 Warren Ave,  
Portland, ME 04103

The Freeport Thrift Store

<https://fcsmaine.org/thrift-shop/>  
53 Depot Street  
Freeport, ME

## **APRIL MEETINGS**

**Faith Formation** - Sunday, April 14 following worship

**Missions** - Monday, April 15 at 6:30pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389724356?pwd=bHEzZy9HR2FCZ3EzY2Z3RTV3ZmNYQT09>

**Council** - Sunday, April 21 following worship

**Choir - Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 8:30 am.**

**(The choir will meet from 8:00 am - 9:00 am on Sunday mornings through Easter)**

**Tuesday Gals** meet at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall.

**Men's Club** meets on the third Saturday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at Toddy Brook

**Pet Place Pantry** is open on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

# ~ April 2024 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6p Greely Boys Hockey Banquet (Fellowship Hall)	<b>2</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>3</b> 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>4</b> Rummage Sale Set-up	<b>5</b> Rummage Sale Set-up	<b>6</b> 9am-2pm Rummage Sale Fellowship Hall
<b>7</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Diaconate Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group 7p Trustees	<b>10</b> 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>11</b> 6p Girl Scouts (FH)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9a Pet Place Pantry
<b>14</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Faith Formation	<b>15</b> <b>Patriots Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 6:30pm Missions Mtg Via Zoom	<b>16</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>17</b> 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30a Men's Club Breakfast (Toddy Brook)
<b>21</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship 11a Council	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group	<b>24</b> 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p AA	<b>25</b> 6p Girl Scouts (FH)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10a Tuesday Gals (FH) 6p Paley's Men's Group				