

Looking Forward to April ACE

APRIL 2024— Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC



Rise up!

Signs of the Spirit
Worship beginning on
April 14th at 9:30am

Congregational Church in Cumberland UCC

www.cumberlanducc.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Worship and Spiritual Life:

Braiding Sweetgrass
Adam Swanson
New Members
Multilingual Worship

Families and Youth:

Family Dinner
LINKS Group!
Student Care Packages

Love in Action:

Shelter Needs
Chop & Chat
Downeast Mission
Root Cellar

Church News

Spring Clean-up
Council Notes
Church Keys
Gun Training
Active Shooter
Deacon's Reflections
Contra Dance/Auction
Annual Meeting
Faithful Readers

Community Notes

Sympathy/Congrats/
Thank you
Birthdays
Grocery cards

Wider Church News

Third Thursdays

Calendar

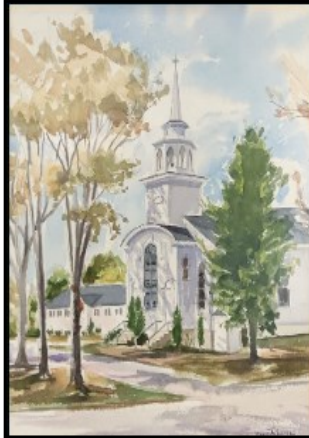
**We had such a beautiful Easter service
with the joy of resurrection!
Butterflies filled the sanctuary!**

Easter is more than just one day so we are beginning a new worship series on April 14th: Rise Up! Signs of the Spirit. Remember that after the first Easter, Jesus met the disciples where they were, huddled in a locked room. He appeared to them and breathed peace on them. That small community of disciples began to Rise Up with a newfound Peace and a hope that filled their lives. The path wasn't always easy but the power of new life and the Risen One was with them enabling them to be part of the "Butterfly effect."

May God's hope dwell within you and bring
you peace today~

Allison

Worship and Spiritual Life:



Making CCCUCC your Church Home

We are receiving new members on **April 21st**.
Please contact Allison
at allisconcgsmith@gmail.com for info.

We would love to welcome you!

Love is our Language:

Multi Lingual Worship

Apr. 21, 28, May 5, 12
after Coffee fellowship

Congregational Church, UCC
Cumberland
www.cumberlanducc.org



Adam Swanson

Thursday, April 11, 7 pm

*Adam Swanson is the only FOUR-TIME
World Champion Old-Time Piano Player!*

Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC
282 Main Street, Cumberland, ME
FB @cumberlanducc www.cumberlanducc.org

*Freewill offering will be taken in support of the
CCCUCC Music Outreach program*



BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

C E L E B R A T I N G
C O M M U N I T Y A N D
C O N N E C T I O N

Following our MLK Sunday with Vice Chief Richard Silliboy and recognizing the gift of sharing meals and conversation together, join us for: **Braiding Sweetgrass: Celebrating Community & Connection!**

We look forward to celebrating our church community and connection to the Earth in this three-part conversation using Braiding Sweetgrass as our guide. Each week's group discussion will focus on a different chapter from Robin Wall Kimmerer's reflective work, and be followed with a meal. While we welcome participants to read the book, no advance preparation is needed for our conversations. Excerpted sections will be provided for all and read aloud at the beginning of our time together:

NEW DATES

Sunday, April 7:

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Discussion of *Gift of Strawberries*
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Family Potluck Dinner

Sunday, April 28:

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Discussion of *Three Sisters & kids' activities*
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Potluck Dinner

Sunday, TBD:

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Discussion of *Asters & Goldenrod*
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Potluck Dinner

Sign up in the church connector or email Martha Leggat at mleggat67@gmail.com. We hope to see many of you, as we welcome spring and celebrate our connection to the Earth and each other.

The Congregational Church in Cumberland

United Church of Christ

Rev. Allison Smith, Senior Minister,

allisconcgsmith@gmail.com

Street Address: 282 Main Street,

Phone: (207) 829-3419

Mailing Address: PO Box 247 Cumberland, ME 04021

Church Office Hours:

Mon. -Thurs. 9:30-2:30 pm & Fri. 9:30 - 1:30 pm

Families and Youth

Family Dinner

Sunday, April 7, 4:30-6:30 pm

(1st Sundays of every month at 5:30 pm)

Happy Easter! Happy Spring! Spring means mud, the first tiny blossoms of crocuses, and the tender shoots of rhubarb just beginning to show up in my garden. As my garden begins to grow I am filled with hope for the coming weeks and months. Easter is a time of hope, of renewal, and of joy. God's Love that brought Jesus out of the tomb surrounds us in all we do. Easter, just like Spring, is a season, not just one day. The season of Easter lasts 50 days until the celebration of Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church. May this Easter season fill you with hope and renew your spirit.

Church School

There will be no Church School on Easter Sunday as we all come together to celebrate in a wonderful intergenerational worship. If you made butterflies at our last Family Dinner please bring them so they can get wings! For those of you that made them in Church School, they are here, waiting! Church School will resume on April 7 with the Fruit of the Spirit, Faithfulness. What does faithfulness mean to you?

LINKS

Due to Easter and April vacation LINKS will not meet until April 28, however there are other activities between now and then! LINKS will be helping at the Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 30 at Twin Brook. Additionally, the Root Cellar is always seeking volunteers for packing meals for those who are unhoused and living in motels Monday through Saturday from 4:00 to approximately 5:00; if you and your junior high or high school student are interested you may sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAEAE22A6F5C16-mirc#/>.

Family Dinner

It has been a long time since we have had a potluck, so if you have been missing it, this next Family Dinner on April 7 is for you! To sign up for the potluck, please email Martha Leggat at mleggat67@gmail.com. This is a special Family Dinner as we will be together with Sacred Ground for conversation on Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. As always there will be delicious food, wonderful conversation, and a special activity for kids

Love in Action

Families in Need of Shelter

Prayers and action are needed. Everyday an average of 2 families are showing up at Williston Immanuel Church (UCC /ABC) seeking shelter. That shelter which is run by Family Promise is full. The City of Portland Family Shelter is also full. Allison is meeting with other clergy to see how we can come together to help. Please pray for the families. Please stay tuned!



Chop and Chat

The first Chop and Chat event was a wonderful success. We made 25 quarts of nutritious chicken vegetable soup in about one hour thanks to the hard working crew who chopped, sautéed, washed pots and ladled soup. Thank you to all who participated!

Some of this food has already been distributed to folks in our community.

The next Chop and Chat is planned for Tuesday **April 16th at 9 AM**, we will be making baked ziti entrees. Please let Grace know in advance, by email, at gal8125@gmail.com if you plan to attend so she can plan the work flow so everyone is busy. Karen is away in April.

We all had a great time and felt so good about what was accomplished. Looking forward to more Chop and Chats!

Grace Lovell and Karen Day



HELP!! Calling all parents (or Grandparents) of CCCUCC college students!

The Church sends out CARE packages to our college students as they study for final exams and end their semesters. But we need help identifying and getting the addresses of these students. Can you please let us know your College students name, address and year in college? The CARE package will contain snacks and messages of caring.

Because we want to get these out in a timely manner, please send the name/address/ year (Freshmen etc) to karengallati@gmail.com by **Monday April 8th**. Thanks!

Love in Action



Toto, Danielle, Susann, Carol, Junior, and Arlene

ROOT CELLAR

To volunteer to pack meals for residents at Motel 6, please sign up here or contact Carol Riley for more info. (207-329-7111). Sign-up [HERE](#)

Church News

MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS Summary of the Church Council Meeting on March 13:

- Clerk's Report: Fourteen Members have been moved to the inactive by request. This has been an ongoing process to ensure we are not listing people who no longer want participate in our church due to moving away, joining a different church, or for other reasons. Four new members, Francesca and Ryan Trerotola, Arlene Landangoye and Guy Alain Kanga Pouani have all joined. Membership is now 266.

- Investments are up so the Balance Sheet is positive. Pledges are less than budgeted YTD however there was a large amount of pledge income for 2024 that was paid at the end of 2023. Expenses for OWL and office payroll were up due to work on year end tasks. OWL expenses may be reimbursed. Current deficit of expenses versus income is \$42,000.

- A vote was taken to make the Samaritan Team a regular



Join the Maine Seacoast Mission Trip Summer 2024

We are pulling together our group for this summer's mission trip to Maine Seacoast Mission in Cherryfield to work on housing repair and rehab projects in Washington County. The dates this year will be Sunday, July 28th to Friday

August 2nd. You can join us for all 5 days of work or only 3 if that's your preference. We stay in the comfortable and air conditioned MSM facility in Cherryfield (there may possibly be accommodations in a nearby home for those who prefer a real bed to a cot and sleeping bag). The work we do can accommodate all skill levels from the novice to the experienced contractor and everything in between. We usually have a variety of projects including carpentry, drywall, and painting. We have great food, camaraderie and a lot of laughs. There is a cost to the week in the range of \$200-300 a person which includes a donation to MSM for building supplies and covers lodging and food. Scholarships are possible.

We will have an organizational meeting in April but let us know now if you are interested or have specific questions. Our group has included teens in the past - probably 15 years or older.

Email or call Jim Bailinson (jamesbailinson@gmail.com, 207-233-4299)



Spring Clean-up April 27 at 8:30am

We need volunteers to help clean up the grounds of the church to make it ready for spring. We will be sweeping up the winter sand, raking out the plowed-up sod, spreading a load of mulch around the plantings and raking up left over leaves and litter. We may even do a little scraping, sanding and painting if the weather is warm enough.

We need folks to bring whatever tools they can including:

- push brooms, (this is our chief tool)
- tarps
- shovels,
- wheelbarrows,
- garden rakes,
- leaf rakes,
- paint scrapers,
- paint rollers and brushes.

Thanks and see you there!

The Building and Grounds Committee

Church News

Council Appointed team. Current members are Chris Smith, Ellie Walker and Sheron Andrews. This team handles requests for Wood and Heating Assistance from the Wood Bank income. They also determine utility and grocery assistance on a case by case basis.

- Agape Meals: Sally Bancroft attended the meeting to give a report on the recent Agape Meals. Sally reported that 101 people attended a meal and there were 15 hosts. It is the hope that the meals will continue in 2025.

- Approval for Teachers Aid for Maine Street Children's Center (MSCC): Beth Christiansen, who has worked for MSCC in the past was approved for the position.

- Security Update: Dick Klain reported that the Emergency Preparedness Committee is working with the Cumberland Police Chief to offer "Active Shooter Training" to church members. Dick will set up possible dates and publicize. Ann Sawchuck will also be presenting a "Safe Storage" segment as well. There was a discussion about re-keying the church doors and implementing a key management system. A possible vote will be at the April Council meeting. Also being discussed are "Emergency Call buttons" and a security camera for the MSCC entrance.

- Dance/Auction: Announcements in Church of the event will start on Easter Sunday. Ticket sales will start the following week. All Council members are urged to be ticket agents. Karen Day gave a report of Auction Items received to date. Jim Bailinson has agreed to be auctioneer.

- Anti-Semitism Statement: Discussion was held about using our outdoor sign to post a statement. More research is being done on exactly what to post.

- Allison shared plans for the Easter worship. The "Braiding Sweetgrass" series begins on Sunday, March 24th and will meet three times. The Easter Sunrise Service will be a joint service with the Tuttle Road Community Church and will likely be held at Broad Cove. The Chop and Chat group will be meeting in the kitchen to prepare meals that will restock our freezer after a freezer malfunction several weeks ago.

Submitted by
Dave Witherill, Moderator

- The Church Council will possibly take a vote at the April Council Meeting on **Wednesday, April 10th (meeting starts at 6:30)** regarding the changing of locks on all church entry doors. A key management program will also be put in place if this is done. Currently we do not have a record of how many church keys are being held by church members and in the broader community. With security concerns for the Nursery School (MSCC) and church members as a whole, the Emergency Preparedness Team is working on a plan to change out the locks and issue new keys. If you have questions or concerns please contact a church council member. Church members are always welcome to attend Council meetings.

Dave Witherill - Moderator

Be SMART Training

May 6, 2024 - 6 pm

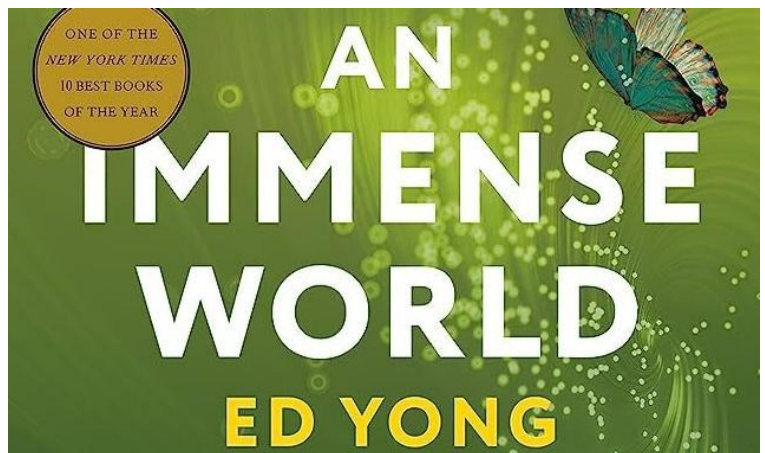
Safety is always an adult responsibility and particularly so when it comes to children and firearms.

Be SMART is a national program that gives people information about safe gun storage and gets people talking about gun safety.

Join us on **Monday, May 6, at 6 pm**, to begin a conversation about gun safety which will make safe gun storage become second nature for the Cumberland Community.

Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events, Monday, April 29, 6 pm

Join the Cumberland Police Department on **Monday, April 29, at 6 pm** for a presentation where Chief Rumsey and Officer Owen will provide strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event



Deacon's Corner

by Dick Klain

The Lord has risen. Easter is past. This month of April is upon us. It seems to me that this is the time of year when the whole of creation seems to be gathering energy to burst into Spring with new life. Our days are longer, the sun is higher, and the spirit of renewal is everywhere. Over the winter I have slowly been reading a book entitled An Immense World by Ed Yong. It is not a religious text in any way. Yong documents the work of biologists from around the world who are making incredible discoveries about the senses of animals and how through these senses, they are able to thrive in their own world as defined by their "senses." Each species has our own "Umwelt." Basically this means that through our senses we define our world. Well documented in the book a dog's Umwelt is very different from a human's Umwelt and very different from say a Jumping Spider's. From my point of view I am flabbergasted at the variety of sensitivities and sensations that exist within the natural world. The diversity here on earth is immense hence Ed Yong's title.

Church News

One aspect of the human Umwelt is our relationship to God. Yong does not try to measure this in any way. This is perhaps because it defies a scientific explanation as we struggle to define it now. Faith and belief are not within a scientist's purview. Likewise he does not try to explain our human fascination with order and our drive to name everything. We often say that an artist has a "God given talent." There is no answer to why an artist just knows how to phrase a musical passage, or capture the light of something to render it on a canvas or recreate the sublime in literature or yacht design, or sculpture. Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder but likewise it is in the feel of a well made tool in a craft person's hand or the taste of a new blend of spices rendering a common potato to an uncommon realm of flavor, aroma, and texture. God given creation is blending the common place into something new, exciting, thought provoking, meaningful enough to change our Umwelt.

This then is the promise of the resurrection, of the season, of faith - it is the opportunity to change the world, our own personal world, our Umwelt. We move beyond our senses to experience this new creation in all its freshness, variety, and immensity to find hope and put love in action.

Online Participation Guidelines for the Annual Meeting of May 19, 2024

As the CCC-UCC moves to envisioning a more modern church and to "Put Love in Action," we want all members of our community to feel empowered and to participate in our Spring annual meeting on May 19th. It is scheduled fifteen minutes after our regular Sunday service. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend in person. We also know that for some that will not be possible, so we offer an online alternative. For all those who may not be able to attend in person we have set up these guidelines to allow your guidance and participation.

First, the church office will notify everyone on our list of members to download the free Zoom app. Second, **by Thursday before the meeting, request the Zoom link (ie meeting address) which will be sent to your e-mail.**

On Sunday tune in to the **worship service on "Twitch."** **The Annual Meeting will be broadcast on Zoom** fifteen minutes after the service. After the service and before the meeting switch over to the interactive program "Zoom" then type in the exact address of the meeting (from your email) in the appropriate box on the screen. (This is easiest using the "cut and paste" function of your computer.) You will be able to see the sanctuary and hear the moderator as well as the screens for any projections. Please keep your audio "off." If you wish to share any concerns or have a question, use the "chat" function and type in a question or comment. There will be one

person in the sanctuary who will monitor this and relay any question/comment to the moderator who will repeat it to the congregation. Answers will be solicited from the appropriate person.

In order to vote, simply raise your hand appropriately so that the camera on your device shows you voting. Keep your hand up until the moderator acknowledges verbally the next step such as "put your hands down, now all the nays raise your hands, the motion is passed/defeated, or there is a division in the house and a count will be taken." At the end of the meeting simply sign-off from Zoom. We hope that by following these simple guidelines we will be able to include everyone in our deliberations. Thanks for your participation.

Faithful Readers

There has been a change in our book for the April 29th meeting. We will now be discussing the novel *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf on Monday April 29th at 6:30 PM in the Farwell Room. We apologize for any inconvenience but welcome all who would like to discuss *Plainsong*.

This novel is widely available in libraries and is also available in paperback, Audible and Kindle formats. Happy reading! Hope to see you at the end of April Question



Contra Dance with Live Auction

FEATURING - **Ellen Gawler and Maggie Robinson**

Celebrating the Cumberland Center Congregational Church

All Ages Welcome!

Contra dancing is a form of folk dancing that is easy to learn and fun for all. No experience needed!

When: May 18th. Doors open at 5:30 PM

Where: Recreation Center at Val Halla, 60 Val Halla Road, Cumberland

Tickets: Adults \$10, Children 12 and under FREE

Cash Bar

Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC
282 Main Street, Cumberland, ME
FB @cumberlanducc www.cumberlanducc.org



Community Notes

Thank you/Joys/Sympathies



Thank You!

Thank you, thank you to all those who contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing for disaster relief, development, and refugee ministries. **We shared \$1095!**

Thank You

Thanks for all the prayers and condolences in this journey too life with our Lord for Blaine Nadeau (Brother of Frankie Dulton). The journey was one of embracement and love. Thanks for your support and love.
Frankie & Ralph Oulton

Thank You

Dear Friends, Our family is very grateful to all of you for the help you have provided us. Many nice furnishings for our new apartment in So. Portland. One million thank you's! We are very happy and comfortable! From all our hearts, thank you.
Justin, Rebeca Quesada



Happy 99th Birthday to Betsy Wales!

Diane Bennekamper and Lorraine Martin visiting long-time church member Betsy Wales in Burlington, VT.

God's Blessings to you, Betsy!

Grocery Cards

We are Selling **Hannaford** and **Shaw's** Grocery Gift Cards during our coffee and fellowship hour after Service. Or, you can always purchase them at the Church Office. The Church gets a Quantity Card Purchase Discount and Since the 2010 Start has generated over \$30,000. This has been used for unbudgeted and unexpected expenses such as a rug shampoo machine, a snowblower, tables, chairs & repairs. You can use these for your own Grocery Purchases or as a Gift to those in need. The Cards are available in \$50 & \$100 amounts. We hope you will support this worthwhile project which enables us to accomplish our mission.



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 04/03 Katherine Leggat Barr | 04/15 Sara Carlson |
| 04/04 Seth Enaire | 04/15 Nell Fallon |
| 04/05 Brooke Asherman | 04/17 Nancy Wilder |
| 04/05 Betsy Wales | 04/19 Emily Sawchuck |
| 04/05 Doug Slocum | 04/19 Donna Doucette |
| 04/07 Aster Zastrow | 04/19 Kari Haugen |
| 04/08 Audrey Wnek | 04/23 Kali Austin-McCormick |
| 04/11 Gene Weir | 04/24 Judith Bickford |
| 04/12 Alison Scheib | 04/27 Nate Wildes |
| 04/14 Elizabeth McCarthy | 04/28 Donald Rawnsley |
| 04/15 Trescott Haugen | 04/29 Jay Chandler |

If you have **special birthdays, graduations or celebrations** you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please contact the Church Office office@cumberlanducc.org

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Church Office Hours Monday-Thursdays 8:30-2:30pm Fridays 9:30-1:30pm</p>	1	2 Women in Harmony 5:30pm	3 B&G Meeting 5:30pm Deacon's Meeting 6:00pm	4	5 Handbell Choir , 5:30-6:30pm Chancel Choir , 7-8:30pm	6
7 Church service & Church School 9:30am Braiding Sweetgrass & Family Dinner Potluck , 4:30pm—6:30pm	8	9 Women in Harmony 5:30pm Security Meeting , 5pm	10 Council Meeting 6:30pm	11 Handbell Choir , 6pm Adam Swanson , 7:00pm	12	13
14 Church service 9:30am	15 OFFICE CLOSED Lion's , 6:15pm	16 Women in Harmony 5:30pm Chop & Chat 9am	17	18 Handbell Choir , 6pm Chancel Choir , 7:30pm	19	20 Women in Harmony 9:30-4:30pm
21 Church service & Church School 9:30am Multilingual Service 10:45am Welcome New Members	22 Social Justice/Welcome Neighbors , 6:30pm on Zoom	23 Women in Harmony 5:30pm	24 Education 7:00pm	25 Handbell Choir , 6pm Chancel Choir , 7:30pm	26	27 Spring Clean-up 8:30am
28 Church service & Church School 9:30am Multilingual Service 10:45am Braiding Sweetgrass: Discussion & Potluck 5-7 pm	29 Active Shooter Response Meeting 6-8pm Faithful Readers 6:30pm	30 Women in Harmony 5:30pm				



Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC
 282 Main Street, Cumberland, ME
 FB @cumberlanducc www.cumberlanducc.org