

# THE TIMES NEWSLETTER

*A publication of the First Congregational Church  
of Scarborough, Maine 04074*

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## MINISTER'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

A few weeks ago, on January 1, 2021, I breathed a sigh of relief and gave thanks to God that 2020 was behind us. The year was filled with the turmoil and division of a bitter Presidential election, the fear and anxiety of a dangerous pandemic, the sorrow of having to distance ourselves from loved ones and friends, and the frustration of being unable to do many of the things we enjoyed and never used to give a second thought to doing (having lunch at Wendy's or the Maine Mall Food Court comes to mind for me!).

Maybe, after the bruising year we have just been through, you haven't given any thought to setting any resolutions for 2021. But after the bruising year we have just been through, it might be more important than ever to think about doing that.

Some time ago, Lloyd Shearer, the editor of Parade magazine, came up with a list of nine New Year's resolutions to consider. What would 2021 would be like if we committed ourselves to living according to these guidelines?

No one will ever get out of this world alive. Resolve, therefore, to maintain a reasonable sense of values.

Take care of yourself. Good health is everyone's major source of wealth. Without it, happiness is almost impossible.

Resolve to be cheerful and helpful. People will repay you in kind.

Avoid angry, abrasive people. They are generally vengeful.

Avoid zealots. They are generally humorless.

Resolve to listen more and talk less. No one ever learns anything by talking.

Avoid giving advice. Wise people don't need it and fools won't listen to it.

Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the elderly, sympathetic with the struggling and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these.

Do not equate money with success. There are many successful money-makers who are miserable failures as human beings. What counts most about success is how a person achieves it.

May your New Year be filled with peace, love and joy.

Fred

### THINGS TO DO IN 2021

Are you big on “to do” lists? If so, consider writing down some or all of these important goals to accomplish in 2021:

Mend a quarrel

Search out a forgotten friend

Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust.

Write a letter to someone who misses you.

Encourage a person who has lost faith.

Keep a promise.

Forget an old grudge.

Examine your demands on others and vow to reduce them.

Fight for a principle.

Express your gratitude.

Overcome an old fear.

Take at least two minutes to stop and appreciate the beauty of nature.

Tell someone you love them.

Tell them again,

And again,

And again.

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday this month, this Stewardship Moment is made up of several of King’s quotes that speak to the theme of stewardship, giving and service.

“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. And a soul generated by love.”

“Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching for it forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.”

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

“Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.”

## TIME OUT FOR PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not as much seek to be consoled as to console. To be loved as to love. For it is in forgiving that we are pardoned. And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

## SCRIPTURE MESSAGE

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
Share with God's people  
who are in need.

Romans 12: 12-13



## FROM THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNING & FINANCE— SAVE THE DATE

The Ministry of Governing and Finance will hold a briefing for FCC members on **Sunday, January 24th**, immediately following the ZOOM worship service, to provide a Semi-Annual Financial Report to the congregation. To attend and participate, merely stay on the phone line or computer screen at the conclusion of the worship service.

Copies of the Six Month Financial Reports will be available from the Church office closer to the date of the meeting. We can e-mail or post these to you if you contact Elaine or you can pick them up in the Church Office. Please stay tuned for any updates to this notice

## **TRANSITIONS - News from our Members and Friends**

Irvine Doe, who lives on Asselyn Drive with her daughter, Ruth Anne Doe, recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. Congratulations, Irvine. Your faith keeps you young!

From Andy Buonauto: We are enjoying our new location here on Orr's Island. Rosie is working at the Bailey Island General Store and having a great time. Our house should be finished the end of February. Holly has been overseeing the house project and is doing well.

From Sheryl Rhodes: I'm working at home and looking forward to a ski vacation in Jackson Home, WY, at the end of January. I can't tell you how much I have thought about my church family in Maine, especially the choir and neighboring. I plan to return to Maine before summer, but for now, I have enjoyed being "holed up" with my daughter, Lauren, and our dog, Rossco, as opposed to by myself at my house in Maine. I recently enjoyed a visit with my niece and nephew, after not having seen them in 3.5 years—so our Christmas was truly "merry and bright." I'm looking forward to returning to Maine, as I have missed my church family. Say "Hello" to all from me.

From a Scarborough resident who wished to remain anonymous: Dear Scarborough Food Pantry Friends, Please accept with deep gratitude the work you are doing to help feed our neighbors. It is with great joy that I forward the money from my stimulus check (plus a tip) for all you are doing. (NOTE: The donor enclosed a check in the amount of \$1,000.00)



### **UPDATED DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AVAILABLE**

Some Church members and friends have moved or changed their phone numbers or e-mails. You are welcome to call the office to get current contact information. We do maintain a directory that is revised from time to time, so please call Elaine to request a hard copy or e-mail copy.



































