

KTF 2025 February 13

Dear Ones,

It's that time of year when I find myself much more interested than usual in the Sunday weather forecast. I might give it a glance in the first few warm weeks of spring or the final warm weeks of fall, to anticipate how good weather might lead to lower attendance. But it's these weeks in February and March when news of an impending Saturday night/Sunday morning storm keeps me much more glued to the weather app on my phone. I fret over whether or not to trust the forecast and cancel early. I worry that if I wait too long, someone won't see it and will venture out to find the doors locked.

I was thinking about eleven years ago, my final winter with the Episcopal Congregations of Piscataquis County. I had missed three Sundays because of the worst case of the flu I've ever had. Then I missed a Sunday to come to Oxford County to finish up the search process with you and Trinity. I was not pleased when I then had to cancel church an additional two Sundays because of ice and snow. We didn't even have the option of Zoom then! But you know what? God was still present and active in our lives. Prayers were lifted, songs were sung. We get through.

If the current forecast for this Sunday is correct, I will remind myself that canceling two Sundays in a row is not the end of the world. I will also be prepared to offer something on Zoom that morning. In the future, I may follow the lead of several of my colleagues, and move the service to Saturday afternoon on those occasions when the weather looks iffy—but I'm not ready to make that adjustment this week. If we need to meet via Zoom on Sunday, be on the lookout for a Zoom link in your email or text message.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10 * Psalm 1 * 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 * Luke 6:17-26

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Caroline Leonard (2/16)

CALENDAR

SUN: (weather permitting)

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Eucharist/In-person and online

3:00 PM Bethel House Church

WED: 9:00 AM Eucharist/Bible Study

THU: 9:00 AM Christ Church Book Group/Zoom

7:15 PM Zoom Compline

CREATION CARE TIPS

If you're not concerned, you're not paying attention. Modern bumper sticker

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Wildfires in places no one would have expected. Snow every four days here in Maine's Western Foothills. Floods in places no one would have expected. Baby puffins starving to death because their parents feed them fish that are too big to swallow. Invasive blobs called sea squirts clogging ropes and traps that make oyster farming and lobstering excessively difficult. These all have one cause: global climate change. And honestly, I'm not just concerned. I'm scared. Not for me, I have somewhere between a day and twenty-five years left. But for our children – and our children's children, and for some among us, our children's children's children – this world will be different from what you and I see today. Hotter. Stormier. Snowier. Windier. Wetter. Drier. More tornadoes. Stronger hurricanes. And yes, probably famines and droughts. All caused by a world a few degrees warmer than it was 200 years ago.

Some of the climate change may be natural. But study after study has indicated that most of the change is man-made. And recent changes in our nation's capital have put many governmental programs at risk, and have obliterated others. The EPA is one of the agencies that has had enormous cuts; these cuts will affect each and every person in this world. The rescinding of clean air and clean water requirements, the permission to drill, baby drill in places that are environmentally sensitive, removal of the US from the Paris Climate Agreement, all are steps that bring the planet to the brink at a speed that is faster than ever before.

At this point, I am not going to suggest using brown paper towels instead of bleached white paper towels, nor am I going to suggest walking instead of driving, nor even carpooling or turning your thermostat down in winter or taking shorter showers. The only things we can do at this moment that may make a noticeable difference are: Pray for inspiration, guidance, and strength; Research what has changed and educate ourselves about the dangers ahead; Contact our legislators in Augusta and Washington, and tell them how concerned we are about climate change and the recent upheaval that is endangering the survival of our planet; Ask others to make their concerns known in the capitals.

The federal legislative contact info:

Senator Susan Collins: Washington, DC (202) 224-2523; Lewiston (207) 784-6969; Portland (207) 618-5560

Senator Angus King: Washington, DC (202) 224-5344; August: (207) 622-8292; Portland (207) 245-1565

2nd District of Maine Representative Jared Golden: Washington, DC (202) 225-6306; Lewiston (207) 241-6767

1st District of Maine Representative Chellie Pingree: Washington, DC (202) 225-6116; Portland (207) 774-5019

The way to speak your mind once your call is answered – probably by machine, possibly by an aide, rarely by the legislator – is to politely give your name, say that you are a voting constituent from the town/district/state, thank the legislator for their service to our country and our state, and ask them to _____ (Whatever it is you want them to focus on and vote for/against).

You can call every day. You can call once in a lifetime. You can call every time you believe something is wrong, or every time you see something improving because of what your congressperson has done. – Patty

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Chapel Kids Theater presentation, March 4. Does 5:30 work? It's been a few years, but with Easter so late this year, we have a pretty good chance of being able to have this fun Mardi Gras event this year without risk of being snowed out. We need donations of the ingredients (pancake mix, bacon and/or sausage, etc.), cooks, set up and clean up teams... There will be some fun activities for the kids leading up to their performance of the story of Esther. I would like to invite our ecumenical friends to join us, so let me know this week if you are interested in participating and helping. (and pssst....I've invited Bishop Brown—not sure he can make it but it doesn't hurt to ask!)

March and April Ministries Schedule Liz is beginning to prepare the ministries schedule for March and April. (FYI: Easter is April 20) If you know of Sundays when you are NOT available, please let her know this week. You can email her (christchurchnorway@gmail.com) or leave a note on her desk.

Outreach Project: Diaper Drive

In cooperation with Community Concepts we are collecting diapers of all sizes and baby wipes. If you would prefer to give money or a gift card toward the purchase, that works too—Jenna Mulandi has offered to be a shopper with any funds we gather.

Safe Church Certification If you are one of the people who is safe church certified, it's time to renew! Speak to Nancy for more information.