

JANUARY 2024

FRYEBURG NEW CHURCH

12 Oxford St. Fryeburg, Maine 04037



Greetings dear Readers!

by Rev. Catherine

And just like that it's 2024!

With the turning of the calendar page we begin a new year, full of promise, and possibilities. In *Secrets of Heaven* Swedenborg writes, "A year symbolizes a whole era in the church, from beginning to end..." (SH§2906). I would suggest that for Fryeburg New Church, the year 2023 was an 'era' of transition, which has now come to an end. Having made it through the ending of one ministry and welcoming the beginning of a new one, we are well positioned for a strong 2024 and the new energies that this year will bring.

For the month of January I encourage everyone to practice staying grounded. As things shift and change in the world around us, and in the world within us, we

need something to hold on to to keep us centered and focused. A regular grounding practice can be as simple as walking and connecting with nature, daily prayer and gratitude practice, reading a few verses from scripture or Swedenborg, and connecting with others. Making sure we are focusing on the greater good and the higher truth and doing our best not to despair at the rapid pace of changes we may be facing. When we have a strong base, grounded in the higher principles of our faith, then change can be exciting and fun. So, stay grounded and let's embrace the adventures of this new year, 2024!

Peace,
~ Catherine



CHURCH OFFICE

12 Oxford Street
Fryeburg, Maine 04037
207-935-3413

Secretary hours:

Wednesday 9 - 1

Thursday 9 - 1

Friday 9 - 1

subject to change without notice

Pastor:

Wed. & Thursday 9:30 - 1:00

Friday, Sat. & Sun. By appointment

fryeburgnewchurchpastor@gmail.com

207-256-6333

Contact People

Chair of Trustees: Lee Dyer

Trustee: Greg Huang-Dale

Treasurer: Jim Dutton

Trustee: Susan Logan

Trustee: Brian Baker

Trustee: Terrie Carlson-Rideout

Music Director: Greg Huang-Dale

Office Secretary: Dawn Crowe

Childcare coordinator: Dede Frost

Pastor: Rev. Catherine Lauber

For contact information visit
www.fryeburgnewchurch.org



CALENDAR

- **Family Worship** ~ Sundays HYBRID @ 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Hour** ~ Volunteers needed, thanks!
- **Trustees meeting** ~ January 9 hybrid @ 6:30 pm
- **Tai Chi** ~ Saturdays @ 8:30 - 10:00 am (contact Greg Huang-Dale)
- **Dinner Bell at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Fryeburg** ~ Wednesdays 5pm - 6pm drive through pick-up. No Dinner Bell during school vacations.
- **Game Night at FNC** ~ every 2nd & 4th Weds. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Sound Bath Meditations** ~ Wednesday January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
- **Have an event to list here? Please let the office know.**
- **Feast of the Epiphany – Three Kings** ~ January 7
- **Reports Due to the office** ~ January 10
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday** ~ January 15
- **Potluck Luncheon before Annual Meeting** ~ January 28
- **Annual Meeting** ~ January 28 after worship (11:45 am)
- **Candlemas** ~ February 2
- **Groundhog Day** ~ February 2
- **Lunar New Year** – February 10, 2024, Sign: Dragon, a Yang year.
- **Mardi Gras / Fat Tuesday** ~ February 13
- **Ash Wednesday** ~ February 14
- **Valentine's Day** ~ February 14
- **World Day of Prayer** ~ March 1
- **Palm Sunday** ~ March 24
- **Easter** ~ March 31
- **Fun Holidays ~ Wacky, Bizarre Days by Holiday Insights**
www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/

Please contact the office if you have an addition for the newsletter.

“Kindness, kindness, kindness.

I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution. I'm praying for courage.”

~ Susan Sontag ~

FNC NEWS

Written by Claire Kiesman and Martha Richardson

Welcome, 2024! It seems like we were just welcoming in 2023. We think a year is shorter now than summer vacation was when we were seven. We want to give a recap of our church year.

* Rev. Alison gave her notice that she would be done on December 31. After talking with the trustees, she agreed to stay per diem until we got a minister or the end of June, whichever came first. We put out a search in January and Rev Catherine Lauber applied. She candidated at our church and did the service on May 20. The following Sunday, we had a short meeting and unanimously accepted her. Then the struggle began to get her work visa accepted. There were stacks of paperwork, numerous phone calls, hours on hold working, with the Central office, Homeland Security, the IRS, and eventually Sen, Susan Collins's office to get her visa approved on October 3. She finally received it and left Canada on October 16 and arrived in Fryeburg on the 17. Hurrah! She was welcomed by Susan, Debbie U., and Greg, * We gave Rev. Alison a lovely party on June 25, attended by 50-plus people. We were indeed lucky to have her as our minister. * In July and August, our pulpit was filled by the Revs Ken Turley, Jim Lawrence, Sage Cole, Hugh Odner, and lay leaders. It was like Old Home Days as all the ministers except Hugh, served the Fryeburg New Church. * In July, Ellen held a one week Musical and Arts Summer School with helpers from our church community. Interesting note: they went to the park every day and played games from Trevor's Treasury of Games. * In August we had our Arts in the Park craft fair managed by Alexis. It was very well attended and the Vendors were very happy. * September and the 1st week of October were consumed by our Fryeburg Fair Church Booth, a lot of many hours of work go into planning and running this

booth. Our church community steps up for the challenge and none more than Lee, who manages with such love. * We had two ecumenical services this year. Thanksgiving service at our church and a Christmas Eve service at the Congregational church. On Christmas day, Rev. Catherine held an open house and it was wonderful to visit with her and be in the parsonage. * During the year Ellen has had concerts and recitals. They are free, but a donation is gladly accepted to help the work of our church. * We have game night the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, Tai Chi every Saturday morning, and DaCaPo meets weekly. We have meditation weekly and once a month on Zoom with the Royal Oak Church with Rev. Renee leading. * As we go to print we are saddened to hear of the passing of Kurt Fekete's mother, Joyce. She was a lovely lady, a true Swedenborgian, full of love, faith, and charity. * Our hearts are breaking for Kathy Libby and her family in the accidental death of her niece. Our sympathies to both families. * We both enjoyed happy Christmas get togethers with family and we hope you did also. * We wish you all a healthy, happy, and peaceful New Year.

We're always looking for news, you can call Claire at 935-2200 or Martha at 935-1217. Thank you.



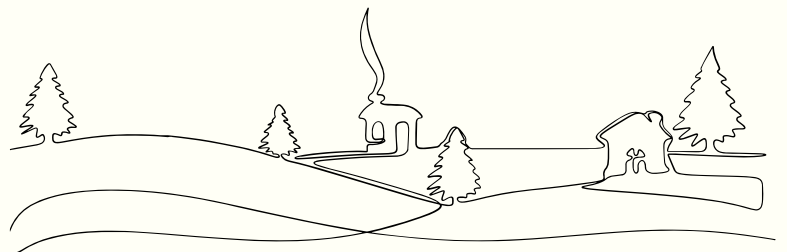


FNC ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again! Our FNC annual meeting will be held on January 28th at 11:45 a.m. after worship and our potluck luncheon. Please get your reports into the office by January 10th, preferably by email so we can get them into the booklet before the meeting. People like to be able to read them without having to rush through it. Thank you!!

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Welcome to winter! It looks like we will finally be getting some snowy weather. Hopefully not too much ice! As we all know this can last well into March and sometimes April. In the event of a storm on Sundays please be aware that services may change. If there's no power or internet it's difficult to let everyone know what's going on. If you are unsuccessful logging in and the weather is poor, you will most likely figure out the reason. Stay safe and warm out there!



Important Information



THE COLLECTION PLATE

Ways to give to the church:

Checks can be mailed:

12 Oxford Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037

PayPal:

<https://fryeburgnewchurch.org/giving/>

Drop off at the church office or in the front door mail slot.

Thank you, donations are appreciated

ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION

We are offering Hybrid Worship services at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Join Zoom Meeting (live link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85357860199>

Dial by your phone

1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 853 5786 0199

There is no password.



FOR MORE VISIT: www.fryeburgnewchurch.org

Swedenborgian Church of North America

Have you visited our denominational website yet? There are so many wonderful resources available there. It's great seeing what our Swedenborgian family is up to all over the country. Below is a little blurb from the website.

"Looking for a way to connect? The Swedenborgian Church of North America (SCNA) has many ministries, programs, and groups for everyone. Whether you're looking for community connection with youth programs and family camps, spiritual growth through our ministries and virtual services, or education and action around justice issues, you can find your community within the SCNA."

<https://swedenborg.org/>

