



ISLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2026

ISLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 281

Bailey Island, ME 04003

PRAYERS

Please join us in especially remembering the following people in your daily prayers:

Health and Healing: HM; Tina M; Marian; Cindy Baumgartner; Bob Chandler; Lynn; Pat Rafferty; Liz Gleason; Norma Conway; Luca.

Strength and Support: The family and friends of Rev Nancy White; DJ; Family of Roger Wallace; Charlie Johnson; family and friends of Jean Johnson; Cheryl Roney; Barbara Messamore; Family and friends of Laura Walsh. Prayers for our first responders; prayers for those with shelter, heat, food, and health care insecurity. Prayers for all people worldwide. God bless all people with basic human rights of justice, safety, security, and peace.

Continuing Prayers: Joe Breton; Ed Roney; Marnie McFarland; Bruce Bickford; Bruce Langford; George Kinser; Roger R; Charlie; Liz Bouve and family; Lancey Taylor; Paula; Melinda Richter; Ron and Angel; Carrie Merriman; Nick Soliotis; Phyllis Simard; Jean S; Kim Johnson; Jean Richter; Willy Wilson; Donna McNelly; Hannah; Carol; Mary Perry Morgan; Susan Harrington; Roger, Josh; Rosemary Dunlap; Kate Stanek-Gleason; Katy Huff; Amy Bloxsom; Laura; for all who love and support those living with mental health and other chronic health conditions; may we as a country create policies to improve the health and safety of all citizens.

If anyone would like to have a person's name included in the Prayer List, please contact Jody Breton at maineofficiants@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A Maundy Thursday service at 5pm will be held on April 2 led by Rev. Jody Breton.
- ICC's Music Events Team will sponsor a **Sock Hop at the Orr's Island Schoolhouse on March 7** at 6:30 PM. See the flyer below for details.

ZOOM LINK

Topic: Islands Community church's Zoom Meeting **for Sunday services through April 26, 2026.**

Time: Feb 1 – Apr 26, 2026 09:15 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89185862440?pwd=7r441jbJNluL0V68abMzKpda0A4LbK.1>

Meeting ID: 891 8586 2440 Passcode: 283558

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: Gayle Hays and Hugh Hardcastle (co-chairs), Ed Striewski, Jody Breton, Angie Arndt, Lori Burkhart, Paul Campbell, Janet Alexander, Tuckie Westfall, Nancy Kinser, David Breton, and Cindy Mudford.

In the month of March, we remain in Lent and celebrate Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Lent – a 40 day period of spiritual preparation, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving observed by Christians leading up to Easter.

Palm Sunday – the Christian Feast that commemorates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday – also known as Holy Thursday, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples.

Spiritual Meaning of March - March is multifaceted inviting us to reflect, to cleanse, to grow, and to connect. March is rich in symbolism, representing a time of rebirth, renewal, and awakening. As the snow melts and the first green shoots emerge, March symbolizes the resurgence of life, the triumph of light over darkness, and the promise of new beginnings.

Speakers for March

- Mar. 1 – Rev. Julie Amery
- Mar. 8 – Dr. Phyllis Blackstone
- Mar. 15 – Jeff Logan
- Mar. 22 – Mair Hoan
- Mar. 29 – Rev. Janet Fournier.

Coordinators for the next few months

Mar. – Jody Breton
Apr. – Lori Burkhart
May – Nancy Kinser
June – Paul Campbell

Prayer List

To add someone to the prayer list, fill out the prayer list form, see Jody, or email Jody at maineofficiants@gmail.com. Please ask Jody to remove names of those who have recovered. Reminder, permission must be given prior to adding a person's name to the printed prayer list.

Pastoral Care

If you could use Spiritual Companionship (a listening ear), please reach out to Angie at angiearndt12@gmail.com or call 207-318-9429.

Spiritual Support Group

Rev. Angie Arndt is facilitating the Spiritual Support Group. The group is a confidential place to explore your spiritual life and share compassionate conversation about life's big questions. The group meets from 4:00-5:00 on Zoom two Mondays a month. For more information, please contact Angie at angiearndt12@gmail.com

Altar Guild

The altar cloth for Lent and Holy Week is Royal Purple. Guild members include Ed Striewski, Jody Breton, Dave Breton, and Cindy Mudford.

Music

Ed Striewski, music director, amazes the congregation weekly with his choice of music that synchronizes with the theme of the service. With 4 or 12 voices, Ed selects pieces that fit perfectly. Choir members include Norma Conway, Margaret Broughall, Carol Ryberg, Lori Burkhart, Brooke Smith, Jolene Connelly Allen, Laurie Smith, Janet Alexander, Gayle Hays, Rose Lawrence, Ellen Hoebeke, Dan Hoebeke, Ed Robinson, and our new tenor, Andrew Brassington. Interested in being a choir member or want to hear a specific hymn? See Ed Striewski.

Inspiration

"March is the whisper of spring reminding us that change can be gentle yet powerful." Unknown

"Step into March with courage — every sunrise is a fresh invitation to grow." Unknown

"March is proof that endings can be beautiful beginnings in disguise." Unknown

"Like the thawing earth, let your dreams break free and bloom this March."

WHAT'S NEW AT ICC

The following are links for online information for your benefit and to share with interested community members or people who might like to learn about the church.

ICC's website address is: islandschurch.org

ICC's email address is: welcome@islandschurch.org

ICC's Facebook Page is: [IslandsCommunityChurchMaine](https://www.facebook.com/IslandsCommunityChurchMaine)

ICC's Instagram Page is: [IslandsCommunityChurch](https://www.instagram.com/IslandsCommunityChurch)

OUTREACH

Members: Co-chairs: Surrey Hardcastle (tel 833-0092; surrey@comcast.net) and Laurie Smith, with Mary Leeman, Marnie Mcfarland, Peg Orlando, and Mary Robinson.

Ronald McDonald House: Flip Tops: Tiny Pieces, Tremendous Impact



When a child is seriously ill, the emotional and financial strain on a family can be overwhelming. The Ronald McDonald House exists to ease that burden by offering families a safe, comfortable place to stay near the hospital, ensuring they stay close during treatment.

Since its founding in 1974, the Ronald McDonald House has expanded into a global network, providing not only lodging but also meals, emotional support, and a compassionate environment.

Collecting flip tops (pull tabs) from aluminum cans is a simple way to support the Ronald McDonald House.

While small in size, these tabs are made of high-quality aluminum that can be recycled for funds used to maintain the House's operations and services. Drop your Flip Tops off at the ICC to be donated to the efforts of The Ronald MacDonalD Houses and their guests.

WHY ARE WE HERE AT ICC...THIS MORNING? Insightful Responses from Attendees:

- Community was mentioned 15 times!
- Connection and to make meaning of my day
- I come to find my place in the world of religion also find spirituality and healing
- Positive spirit of community and sharing love
- It's my 'Happy Place'
- I grew up in stricter religion - wanted something different - this is different
- Love the informality
- Happiness and joy - it is not strict
- This is my home - the people and spirituality
- It's just so different from traditional church
- Helping others in the area - This community helps others - there is less talk about God; more acting the way
- I come because it is humbling, reminds me that there are greater things than me; puts me where I need to be
- More welcoming than other communities- always feel better when I come
- It is a blessing to praise God together - to meet new friends and neighbors
- This is my home
- The messages here are applicable to my life
- The music lifts my soul
- It's a good tradition
- This church offers strong community - it feels good - satisfies my need to be with people
- The choir - they are small, but mighty
- I come to sing and the community is FUN!
- Singing is a prayer and brings joy
- There is love here and it feeds my soul
- I like the different views of the various speakers - variety is good
- It's where we can be real with open hearts and sharing. Safe, supported, accepted, healing

ICC COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Ping Pong and Puzzles Every Tuesday, 1:00-3:00

There is lots of laughter on Tuesdays. Ping Pong skills are slowly improving (experts need not worry), and the group recently finished a another 1,000 piece puzzle. Join us to see ICC friends and meet others from the community who stop by. Thanks to Charlie, we now have the option of crooning or bopping to the oldies. It is always fun!



Please come and join in on Ping Pong Tuesdays!



Yoga Classes

Yoga classes are offered Monday mornings from 9-10 and 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 5-6 pm in the lower level of the church. Instructor Kelly Merrill is a native islander who has been teaching yoga for 7 years. All classes are suitable for ALL LEVELS, staying within a gentle practice of movement and breath. Cost is \$15.00 per class.

Islands Community Church Presents A Community Sock Hop

Come young, Come old, Come one, Come all!

Free Fun for Everyone!

Saturday March 7, 6:30 pm

(Snow Date March 14)

Old Orr's Island Schoolhouse

(1594 Harpswell Islands Road)

Snacks and Soft Drinks!

Music and Dancing!

DJs and Raffles!

**Raffle proceeds and any donations
go to the
Harpswell Heating Assistance Program**



DANCE THE WINTER BLUES AWAY!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Being a Good Neighbor - Rivers do not drink from their own water, Trees do not eat their own fruit, the sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you.

Judgment - Tough Question 1: If you knew a pregnant woman, who has 8 kids, 3 who are deaf, 2 who are blind, 1 who is mentally retarded, and the woman has syphilis; would you recommend she have an abortion?

~Tough Question 2: It is time to elect a new world leader, and your vote counts. Here are the facts about the 3 leading candidates: Candidate A: Associates with crooked politicians and consults with astrologists. He's had 2 mistresses, chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day. Candidate B: He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, uses opium in college and drinks a quart of whiskey every evening. Candidate C: He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any extramarital affairs. Which of these candidates would be your choice? Decide first, no peeking. Answers: Tough Question 2: Candidate A: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Candidate B: Winston Churchill, Candidate C: Adolf Hitler. Tough Question 1: If you said yes, you just killed Beethoven. Makes a person think before judging someone.

Types of Undergarments - A man walked into the ladies' department of a Macy's and shyly walked up to the woman behind the counter and said, "I'd like to buy a bra for my wife." "What type of bra?" asked the clerk. "Type?" inquired the man. "There is more than one type?" "Look around," said the saleslady, as she showed a sea of bras in every shape, size, color and material. "Actually, even with all of this variety, there are really only four types of bras," she replied. Confused, the man asked what the types were. The saleslady replied, "The Catholic type, the Salvation Army type, the Presbyterian type, and the Baptist type. Which one do you need?" Still confused, the man asked, "What is the difference between them?" The lady responded, "It is all really quite simple...the Catholic type supports the masses, the Salvation Army

type lifts up the fallen, the Presbyterian type keeps them staunch and upright, and the Baptist type makes mountains out of molehills."

Printer cleaning

Tom's printer type began to grow faint. He spoke to a friendly man at the repair shop who informed him that the printer probably needed only to be cleaned. Because the store charged \$50 for cleanings, he told Tom that he might be better off following the manual and trying to do the job himself. Pleased by this candor, Tom asked, "Does your boss know that you discourage business?" "Actually, it's his idea," replied the employee. "We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to do the repairs first."

The unluckiest man - On a January day in 1962, a Croatian music teacher named Frane Selak was traveling from Sarajevo to Dubrovnik by train - the beginning of a 40 year journey marked by freak accidents and near-death experiences. The train carrying Selak inexplicably jumped the tracks and plunged into an icy river, killing 17 riders. Selak managed to swim to shore, suffering hypothermia, shock, bruises and a broken arm, but happy to be alive. ~A year later, Selak was traveling on a plane from Zagreb to Rijeka when a door blew off, sucking him out of the aircraft before it crashed minutes later, killing 19. Found in a haystack, Selak woke up with only minor injuries.

~In 1966, the bus he was riding on went off the road and into a river killing 4. Selak suffered only cuts and bruises.

~In 1970, while driving, Selak's car suddenly caught fire. He was able to get out before the fuel tank exploded and engulfed the car in flames.

~In 1973, the car he was driving had a faulty fuel pump and sprayed gas over the engine. Flames blew through the air vents, yet his only injury: he lost most of his hair. His new nickname - Lucky.

~In 1995, he was hit by a city bus receiving only minor injuries

~In 1996, Taking a corner while driving on a mountain road, Selak saw a truck coming toward him. He drove his car through a guardrail, jumped out, landed in a tree and watched his car explode 300 feet below.

~How does his story end? Luckily, of course. In 2003, at the age of 74 he bought his first lottery ticket in 40 years... and won more than \$1 million. In 2004 he was hired

to star in an Australian TV commercial. He initially accepted the position but ultimately turned it down because he refused to fly to Sydney. His reason? He didn't want to test his luck.

Samaritan - Taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6. Looking up and down my uniform, she asked, "Are you a policeman?" "I am", I answered continuing my report. "My mom said if I need help, I can ask the police. Is that right?" "Yes", I said. "Well," she said and extended her foot toward me, "Will you please tie my shoes?"

Choir Bloopers

~Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

~The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.

~Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

~The Senior choir invites any church member who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

~Miss Carol Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

~At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Mismatched couples

~ He's a chiropractor, and she is a pain in the neck.

~He doesn't have a dollar, and she has no sense.

~He sells balloons for a living, and she's full of hot air.

~He's bow-legged, and she's as straight as an arrow.

~She's a math teacher, and he's a guy with a lot of problems.

Door Bell - A pastor, walking down the street one day, noticed a small boy trying to press the doorbell on a house but the doorbell was too high for him to reach. Watching the boy's efforts, the pastor walked to him, placed his hand on the child's shoulder and gave the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the child's level, the pastor smiled and asked, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replied, "Now we run!"

Worship Service

Sunday at 9:30AM

*Communion is always
served
the first Sunday of the
month*

Guest Speakers:

***March 1: Rev. Julie Amery
March 8: Dr. P. Blackstone
March 15: Rev. Jeff Logan
March 22: Rev. Mair Honan
March 29: Rev. J. Fournier***

****Flowers:***

***March 1: Janet Alexander
March 8: Marcia Potter
March 15: Lori Burkhart
March 22: Laurie Smith
March 29: Gayle Hays***

****Refreshments:***

***March 1: Janet Alexander
March 8: Marcia Potter
March 15: Lori Burkhart
March 22: Laurie Smith
March 29: Gayle Hays***

**If you are able to help out,
please contact Charlie Libby at
wj4@comcast.net*

March 2026

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The Islands Community Church is a non-denominational church based on the teachings of the Bible. The church is led by a Board who invite ordained ministers, lay people and chaplains to celebrate the service. Communion is offered monthly on the first Sunday. Outreach and community service are important aspects of the church mission.

Weekly Worship Speakers: The church has an active Worship committee responsible for inviting ordained ministers, lay people and chaplains to celebrate the service each Sunday. These ministers are rooted in a diverse array of faiths including Congregational, Episcopalian, Baptist, Presbyterian, among others. They are primarily based in the mid-coast region, including Portland. The variety of speakers at the Sunday services are appreciated by the attendees, as each offers his or her personal insights on their journeys and the teachings of the Bible.

PASTORAL CARE and COUNSELING: Rev. Angie Arndt provides pastoral visits and counseling. Angie can be reached at 318-9429 or at angiearndt12@gmail.com.

COMMUNION is served the first Sunday of the month and is available at home for those unable to attend church. If someone wishes to receive Communion at home, please call Hugh Hardcastle at 833-0092.

MARCH

Birthdays:

03/03 Diane Gagne
03/12 Roger Ryberg
03/13 Lois Striewski
03/15 Wayne Gagne
03/19 Tuckie Westfall

03/23 Connie Barker

Anniversaries:

03/17 Melinda and Chuck Richter

Note: *If your birthday or anniversary is in this month, and it is not noted, please contact Mary Robinson at mrobinuk7@gmail.com*