

JUNE/JULY2020

# CORNERSTONE CONNECT

*Monthly Newsletter from Cornerstone Congregational church*

## MIGHTIER THAN THE WAVES OF THE SEA

*Is His love for  
you*

*Psalm 93:4*

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**THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:**  
**In this Newsletter, you will find;**

**A new addition  
Prison Ministry**

**Plan for re-opening  
and more!**

**We Hope to "Connect" with you soon!**



# Re-Opening

**Cornerstone is excited to be preparing to open for "in-person" worship on July 5. We are under certain restrictions and guidelines placed by the governor, so please try to understand that it will not be "business as usual".**

**We understand that many may be uncomfortable with group gathering and may want to continue to worship via "livestream". And that is absolutely fine! For those who may be in a high-risk group or if you are not feeling well, or if you have been in contact or close proximity to someone who is not feeling well, we would request that you stay home and join us via Facebook Live.**

**We will be unable to offer child care or children's programs and the nursery area will not be available, so we understand if families may want to stay away until we are allowed those options. Children and youth will be required to sit with their families and remain with them at all times.**

**The Deacons have been very busy modifying the seating layout in the sanctuary in order to maintain the physical distancing required. And of course, face masks will be required at all times for those over the age of 2. We realize this is not ideal and will take some getting used to. We thank you all for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one of the Elders or Deacons.**



Welcome  
little one!



Congratulations to  
Jonathan, Monica, and  
Elijah!

Evangeline Grace came into the  
world, faster than expected.

She decided she didn't want to  
bother Mom to go to the  
hospital, so she was born at  
home, June 15th at 5:15 AM

Everyone is fine.

7.0 lbs and shining of Gods  
love... beautiful.



## Missions Update

As most of you know, one of our missions partners is Reverend Denis Frediani and his work with the Vision New England Prison Ministry program. Denis' mission ministry has long been his work in the prison system where he works predominantly with men incarcerated in NH meeting mentoring a number of men as he shares the Gospel with them. He is also passionately involved with the Reentry Task Force, training folks such as church members to build an effective ministry support system for inmates returning to society. As we can imagine, these last few months have been especially challenging in that mentors have not been allowed into the prisons and there have been restrictions on the contact available with those who are trying to restart their lives with their families and in their communities. The Prison Ministry first quarter newsletter is attached. Please read it to learn of the work this ministry partner is doing and to hear his prayer requests for this ministry.

Reverend Frediani is also the pastor of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Tyngsboro. That church began meeting again in communal worship several weeks ago and Pastor Frediani has asked for our prayers "that the Lord will be glorified as we learn to worship together in a new and unique way."

Please support Pastor Frediani with your prayers for both his prison ministry and for our sister CCCC church in Tyngsboro.

Please read the letter updating Mission work on the last pages of this **Connect**





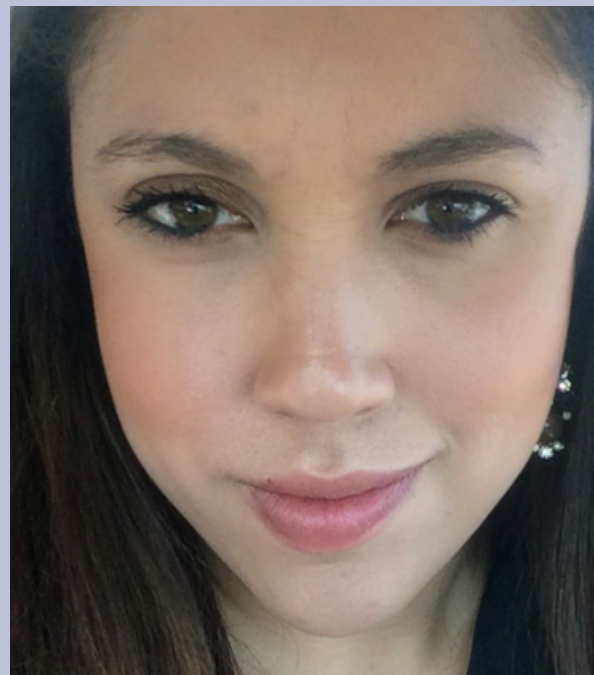
# New Prayer Ministry Team

As we say goodbye to the Tangs, and wish them well. It means that we needed someone to step up to take over the **Prayer Ministry!**

I am thankful to announce we had 2 members step up to take on this task.

So lets be supportive and welcome **Kayela Oder, and Susana Kuehne.**

Thanks so much for giving your time for this.  
If anyone has a prayer request please email  
[prayer@cornerstonewestford.com](mailto:prayer@cornerstonewestford.com)





# Volunteers please

**WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO  
HAVE VOLUNTEERS.**

**INTERESTED IN SERVING  
COMMUNION?**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE  
JESUS AND WANT TO LOVE THEIR CHURCH  
FAMILY BY HELPING TO SERVE. EMAIL  
[PASTORJROMIG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PASTORJROMIG@GMAIL.COM) TO TALK YOUR  
INTEREST OVER WITH HIM.**





# **Hello Youth and Families**

**Please join us on Sunday, June 28 at 3 pm to gather with the Tang Family for a socially-distant Ice Cream social send off!**

**The Boucher family has graciously offered to host the Youth both in their yard and across the street from their house at Jack Walsh field. We will plan to eat ice cream and treats around 3pm, and then send the Youth off to the fields to run free! Please bring frisbees, footballs, and whatever else sounds fun.**

**Please plan to park over at Jack Walsh field and walk over to the Bouchers.**

**Questions? Email us!**

**[youth@cornerstonewestford.com](mailto:youth@cornerstonewestford.com)**

**We look forward to seeing everyone!**

**Bari- for the Youth Ministry Team**



Prison Ministry First Quarter -  
April 24, 2020

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

I want to again thank you so much for being a part of what the Lord is doing here in the Northeast. This has been an unprecedented time, since many things have changed in the prisons amid the COVID-19 pandemic. For about 4 weeks now, all volunteers have been restricted from entering any of the state prison facilities, for fear of being a possible entry source for this virus. If you have listened carefully to the news, you will note that there is a very high incidence of COVID-19 transmission in places like nursing homes and group homes. Those facilities often have a moderate or large medical staff, and yet the transmission and death rates are inflated, in part because of the residents' close living quarters.

The prison system is in a similar situation. The prisons in Concord, New Hampshire are significantly overcrowded, and the diet is unhealthy and filled with carbs. In fact, prisoners in the USA are 84 times more likely to contract TB than those outside the prison—which shows just how susceptible this population is to something like COVID-19. In addition, the families of the inmates have also been restricted, so the men and women in prison have not seen any family members for a month now, and this will continue for at least several more weeks. This is strenuous for both the inmates and their families.

I have remained in contact with the chaplains in these facilities and, while they are still allowed to go to work in the prison, their duties are limited and they have to wear masks. There are also no group activities at all for the inmates. This is difficult for many, since before the COVID-19 restrictions, they had a number of opportunities to go to the chapel for worship, singing, teaching, spiritual counsel and discipleship. Now there are no meetings taking place.

On a positive note, after a lot of work and some equipment modifications, the prison was able to broadcast both Protestant and Catholic Easter services in both the men's and women's prisons. Now they are looking to possibly get additional equipment to make this a regular opportunity each week. In addition, the prison is looking for additional equipment that will enable face-to-face video visits between the inmates and their families.

During this time, I have also been connecting with those who have returned from prison to make sure that they are staying close to the Lord, and to see if they have any needs that I may help them with. So far, all of those whom I have been in contact with are still doing quite well, but the longer this social distancing and limited working continues, the more difficult it will become for these men.

In reference to the Reentry Task Force, we have been unable to meet due to social distancing. There have also been health issues with some to the leadership team, so we are in a holding pattern until we can once again meet together and begin additional training.



In all of this, please be praying for the following issues:

- For the inmates, staff and chaplains in the prison system during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that the inmates would be delivered from fear, and that the Christian inmates would be a living testimony to the other inmates during this time of limited movement and opportunities. Pray for wisdom for the prison staff and officials as they decide when to return things to “normal.” Pray for spiritual strength and discernment for the chaplains, as well as protection for them and for all of the inmates and staff during this difficult and dangerous time.
- Please pray that the prison system will find some way for inmates and their families to reconnect during this time of social distancing, and for the wisdom and resources to best make this happen in the near future.
- Please pray for the New Hampshire Reentry Task Force during this time of social distancing. Pray that we will not lose ground, and that many more churches throughout New England will partner together to support and equip released inmates and their families.
- Please pray that inmates who have returned or are returning to society will keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, and not revert to negative patterns of thought and practice. Also pray that the Lord would continue to meet their needs during this time of limited employment.
- Pray for me, that I will be able to effectively minister to those who are no longer in prison, and that I will be an encouragement, support and a mentor for them in this difficult time.
- Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more laborers to work in the prison and reentry ministries when things reopen in the future.
- Please pray that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we will live by a different narrative than the world when it comes to prisoners and returning inmates. Instead of judging or fearing them, may we learn to visit them, love them, care for them and be used by the Lord to restore them to freedom and dignity in Jesus Christ.
- Praise the Lord for the faithful chaplains who are working so hard to get the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the prison population during this time of limited movement and social distancing. Pray that they, too, will receive the necessary understanding and tools to make this happen on a regular basis.
- In all of this, let us continually praise the Lord for His extravagant blessings and lavish love displayed in so many inmates who have found, and continue to find, forgiveness through Jesus Christ and are seeing their lives transformed through His power and grace!

Thank you again for joining us in love and prayer as we continue to serve some of the most vulnerable in our nation during much uncertainty. May we all find comfort in the Lord, our refuge and strength, not just in times of trouble, but always (Psalm 46:1-2).

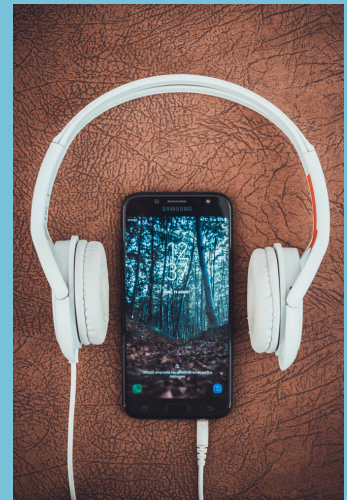
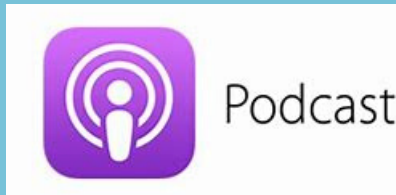
In Christ,

Denis Frediani



# Cornerstone Congregational Church Podcasts

*click on the logos below*



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## WEEKLY NORMAL SCHEDULE AT CORNERSTONE

### Monday

6:00-7:30 pm - Parenting Group

### Wednesday

12:00 pm - Wednesday Lunchtime at Cornerstone

7:00 pm - Wednesday Evenings at local Westford home

### Friday

6:30 pm - Friday Night Community Group at Cornerstone

### Sunday

8am-8:45am - Prayer Time

9-10am - Education Hour

10:15am - Worship Service

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### CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS

Looking for a local Christian Counselor?  
**CLICK HERE** for a guide.

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here**

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MINUTES**

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