

NACCC E-NEWS

THE MESSENGER



December 15, 2025

CHANGING FOR CHRIST

REV. DR. GERRY KRUPP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Change. It's a word that evokes emotional energy. Those who don't like change feel an adrenaline rush of anger at the suggestion that their routine might be altered. Those who love to try new things and are willing to give every new idea a test drive are also driven by adrenaline - only they love the adventurous rush of newness that courses through their bloodstream.

In church last Sunday, our gospel reading came from Matthew 3, the message of John the Baptist preparing the way for the Messiah. Preaching on this passage, my pastor referred to a change word in her message - a word in English that, when used, always implies change for the better. That word is repentance. As we prepare for Christmas, may we remain mindful of how Christ calls us to change through a lifetime of making changes that honor Christ.

CONTRIBUTE TO *THE CONGREGATIONALIST*

Submissions to the March 2026 "Thresholds" edition of *The Congregationalist* are due January 1st!

We're seeking work that explores life's in-between moments - transitions, turning points, and the sacred spaces that lie between what has been and what is yet to come. Whether personal or communal, spiritual or societal, *Thresholds* invites reflections on baptisms and farewells, beginnings and conclusions, new ministries, final chapters, answered callings, opened doors, and those quiet pauses of deep discernment.

Send your articles, poetry, short stories, children's writing, artwork, photography, hymns, or other creative offerings to editor [Maggie Helmick](#).

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SUPPORT THE 2026 INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION PROJECT THIS LENTEN SEASON

This Lent, your church can help us prepare for the Intergenerational Mission Project at the 2026 Annual Meeting and Conference of the NACCC by gathering the items we need to fill the "ditty bags" we'll be assembling for seafarers.

From chapstick to deodorant, socks, playing cards, and much more, there are many items your church can collect in service of this project. Additionally, we would love for the members of your church to write encouraging letters for the mariners or craft colorful pictures to be included in the bags.

So that we're able to track what is being collected and by whom, we ask that you please sign up for what you'll be collecting [here](#).

Thank you for participating in this exciting project and helping out our mission partner, Seafarers' Friend! Questions can be directed to [Joanne Simpson](#).

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

From scholars to pastors, graduate students, church historians, and other researchers working on projects related to Congregational Christian history, the Congregational Library & Archives has fellowship opportunities to help support the cost of traveling to Boston to work with their collections at 14 Beacon. [Click here](#) to explore opportunities to fund your next research project.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING CHILDVOICE!

The NACCC is excited to welcome ChildVoice as our newest Global Mission Partner. Based in Newmarket, New Hampshire, ChildVoice serves children and youth affected by war and exploitation by providing safe, therapeutic care, spiritual and emotional counseling, education, and vocational training. With a vision to bring God's restoration to every conflict zone, they have already reached more than 15,000 children, youth, and families, achieving remarkable success in helping girls complete vocational programs and reintegrate into their communities. Join us in embracing and supporting this transformative ministry! [Click here](#) to learn more about ChildVoice.

[CHECK OUT OUR DECEMBER MISSION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT ON SEAFARERS' FRIEND](#)