



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

April, 2018

Upcoming Events

Easter Sunday, April 1st

6:30am Easter Dawn Service followed by a Resurrection Breakfast
10am Family worship

The Interfaith Choir Concert

Saturday, April 21st 7pm—St. Joseph's Church, Salem

Sunday, April 22nd at 4pm—Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Church Clean-up day

Saturday, April 21st

(rain date is Saturday, April 28th)

Cabinet Meeting

Sunday, April 29th at 11am



Please join us every Sunday for Worship

10:00am Family Worship and Children's Sunday School

Communion is the 1st Sunday of every month

lines from linda,

“The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.” (Acts 2:42 CEB)

This verse is often used to describe the church and how the church started. It follows the description of Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came as tongues of fire upon the people, Peter's sermon, and about three thousand people becoming a part of the community. We often use this verse to describe the church since, while there are hints about the structure and purpose of the church, the Bible does not come out with a direct formula that outlines how to be the church.

On March 18 we had our first gathering as a congregation to begin conversations about how we can be and do church. We are centering these discussion around four questions:

Who are we?

What is our purpose?

What is God calling us to do?

What will we do to answer God's calling?

It was a very lively group which came together and discussed, with the aid of some scriptures, who we are as a church. The list covered an entire sheet of newsprint and is too long to cover in this message. However, some of the descriptions included: creative, family, diverse, older, open and affirming to everyone, disciples, learners, children of God, and the list continues. In May a compilation of the entire list will be distributed as the foundation for dealing with the rest of the questions. One additional benefit of these gatherings is the opportunity to learn more about each other in the discussions.

We will gather again on **May 20th** after church to again share food and fellowship and explore the rest of the questions. Even if you did not make the first gathering, please attend the next one as we need everyone's voices in order discern God's call to us as a church.

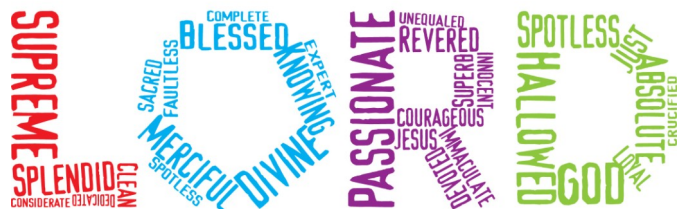
During the month of April, some sermons will focus on differing aspects of being the church in today's world. As of this writing, I have not quite figured out the direction, but will probably not using the Lectionary. On April 8 we will be dealing with Holy Humor and that service will be more light hearted, especially after the intensity of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Come ready to laugh and make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda



CALL ON HIS NAME



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, April 4th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, April 15th at 11am

Cabinet – Sunday, April 29th at 11am

Angela, Shirley, Ron and Trebor, friends of
Judy Balk

Jack Arnold, Sandy and Hilary Hall's uncle
(Lois Lee Hall's brother)

Carol and Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's
mother and her husband

Bree Coward, Nate and Lynn Rockwell's niece

Bill Curtin

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Chip Frost

Bryan Hall, Sandy and Hilary Hall's cousin
(Bud Hall's nephew)

Bob Henderson

Isaac, Dick and Marion Hazelton's grandson

Hayden Lane

Janet MacGray

Annette, Avery, Linda and Ken Millsaps,
Cliff's family members

Allan Poole, Nate Rockwell's cousin

Brenda Price

Barbara Rice

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Sally St. Clair

Dean Towlas

Cate Veazey, Lynn Rockwell's sister

The people of Zimbabwe

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Evelyn Wise

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of...

The Rev. Priscilla R. Schumm who died on
Ash Wednesday, February 14th

Barbara Tudor, Cliff and Joanne Millsap's
niece, died February 19th



EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday, April 1st

† Easter Dawn outside service is
at 6:30am followed by a
“Resurrection Breakfast” in the
Vestry.

† A celebration of Christ's
resurrection in Family Worship
is at 10:00am.

All are welcome!



American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

**COME ONE, COME ALL
TO OUR ANNUAL SPRING MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018 at 3 p.m.
AT THE CAMPTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

Speaker: Rev. Fela Barrueto, National Coordinator of Prisoner Re-entry Ministries
at American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Worship, Fellowship, Inspiration, Supper

Reservations for supper (\$5.00) due April 11th
camptonbaptistnh@gmail.com or call 603-726-4662

Directions to the church: From I-93, Exit 28, Rte. 49 toward Waterville. Turn left at lights onto
Rte. 175N. Church is 1/4 mile on left (1345 Main Street, Campton, NH 03223)

**Harry Potter and the Sacred Text
Thursday, April 19th at 7pm
Phillips Exeter Academy**

Phillips Exeter Academy and the Reverend Heidi Carrington Heath are hosting the team from Harry Potter and the Sacred Text on Thursday, April 19th at 7 PM. They were featured at the American Academy of Religion gathering this year, and have received extensive media coverage in the last year or so. The podcast (see link below) focuses on reading the Harry Potter books through the methods of ancient text study from multiple faith traditions. It raises questions like what it means to read our favorite fiction books as sacred text and more. It should be a wonderful evening!

Podcast link: <http://www.harrypottersacredtext.com/>



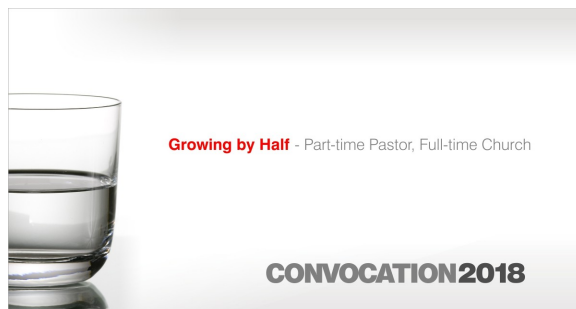
Spring Work Day

Church Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 21st ~ 8am to noon

Saturday, April 22nd (rain date) ~ 8am to noon

Please see a member of the BORF if you have any questions
or would like to help.



**BTS Center and Maine Conference Host Convocation:
"Growing by Half-Part-time Pastors, Full-time Church"
April 20-22, 2018 in Portland, Maine**

Glass half-empty, or glass half-full? As many churches face shrinking resources, and shift from full-time to part-time paid leadership, do we see them as markers of failure or signs of emergent opportunities?

Convocation 2018 will name what's been lost, reflecting on the implications of fewer opportunities for congregations to be led by full-time, ordained clergy. But our priority is to share what's been found, learning about congregations experiencing heightened vitality through part-time pastoral leadership.

Lay leaders and pastors in part-time settings will share how their communities are re-imagining once familiar roles, and how they are seeing creative energies being unleashed for vital ministries. Workshops will offer deeper dives into mindset, method, and motivation to help release your community's potential.

Please see Pastor Linda if you are interested in attending this conference.



The Interfaith Choir Concerts

Let the Children Come!

Playful music for the young and the young at heart!

With Special Guests:

The Windham Flute Ensemble and Kings Junior Choir

Saturday, April 21st at 7pm

Saint Joseph Church, 40 Main Street, Salem

Sunday, April 22nd at 4pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church, 4 Chester Street, Chester

Admission is free and refreshments follow each concert.

A free will offering will be accepted at the concert.

These Days Devotionals

The April –May–June copy of *These Days Devotionals* is now available.

You can pick up a **free copy** in the Narthex.



March sure was a bear of a month with 4 – count ‘em – 4 Nor’easters! Enough already; I don’t know about all of you, but I am ready for some spring RAIN showers and some early spring flowers. As I write this we are heading into Holy Week. I hope that everyone enjoyed the Cantata, *A Journey to Hope*. The choir, although small, worked very hard on this year’s Palm/Passion Cantata. I hear tell that those two “dark haired women” make hearts melt when they sing. Way to go Jean and Fran!

Hopefully you will be able to join us for our Maundy Thursday service. It is a very different and touching service that will be held in the Vestry on Thursday, March 29th at 6:30. We will share soup and bread and conversation as well as communion in a slightly different manner that is extremely meaningful. Good Friday services will once again be ecumenical and will occur in Derry between First Parish Church, Church of the Transfiguration, St. Luke’s Unite Methodist Church and St. Thomas. Easter morning we will have our first service at 6:30am – outside, so dress accordingly. This is not the time for your Easter finery! This service will be followed by a breakfast in the Vestry. Our second service will be our regular 10:00 am service. So, if you are into Easter finery – this is the time! The choir will be finishing the cantata with a piece called *Great Day! The Lord is Risen*. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

And then, we rest. Well, not really. Many hands doing wonderful work will continue as we seek to find a direction and lighten the burden on boards that have no one to serve. The Prayer Shawl Ministry can always use more knitters or people who crochet. Yarn is available in the church. Your contact deacon is Deb Field. If you are donating yarn, please think about some more cheerful colors when you donate. Right now we have a lot of dark green. Deb Field will also be providing copies of prayer shawl patterns for knit and crochet so that we can make sure the shawls go around shoulders.

Many of you may have purchased Easter flowers to grace our worship space on Easter morning. Please be aware that many are allergic to the pollen and scent – especially in Easter lilies. **Please take your Easter flowers after worship on Easter morning.** While sanctuary flowers are being coordinated through the church office, we do understand that occasions arise when we might find it too late to let Frances know or we have some flowers we would like to share following an event that was, perhaps, unexpected. Please don’t hesitate to bring flowers to church if that is the case. We have these wonderful marble topped tables that can display your flowers – and fresh is always better than the artificial arrangements we have. Please check with Frances BEFORE bringing flowers for worship if you would like them in memory of someone and wish it published in the bulletin.

The purpose of the Deacons fund is to help those in times of need. Please consider donating to the Deacons Fund so that the funds are there when someone is experiencing a crisis. As a reminder, please contact the Deacon of the Month, or if you are in Chester, Gen Rowell or Deb Field and they can get word to Pastor Linda. As always, if it is a **true emergency** you may, of course, call the parsonage directly.

The Deacons for 2018 are Gen Rowell, Mary Hamblett, Deb Field, Marge Pagliuca and Paul Scott.

WELCOME

New Members



Please welcome one of our new members of the church: **Debra Blake**. She was born outside of Worcester, MA, the oldest of six children. She has a Master of Education from the State University of New York-Albany and in addition has taken several business courses. She is married to David Freschi and has a daughter Katlin, living in Denver. She does sub-contracting in sales for publishing companies. She enjoys hiking (has done part of the Appalachian Trail ending at Mt Katahdin with her daughter who has done the entire trail) gardening, and athletics. Until recently she lived in Chester, but is now living in Hooksett. ~Mary Hamblett



Michael Elliott grew up in Massachusetts, the oldest of four children. His family is still in New England. He graduated from Mendon High School and two weeks later he enlisted in the army. He was discharged after ten years but reenlisted just before 9/11. During his time in the service he spent 7 1/2 years in Europe.

Michael grew up in the Catholic Church but as often happens when children are out on their own, they try other denominations. This is exactly what he did when he was in the military, especially when he was in Europe.

Michael's work included both the military and the Department of Defense. He finally retired from the Army in February of 2015. He was stationed at the Manchester Airport which is how he ended up in this area, and how he met Linda.

I don't know why he and Linda chose our church to visit, but we are all grateful they did. They will be a welcome addition. ~Genevieve Rowell

Linda Elliott is a person of many interests. She enjoys sewing, making crafts and really wants to become involved in many different ways. She has worked in nursing homes for over 30 years caring for others and has recently decided to take a break.

Throughout her life she has felt a strong spiritual faith. When she was young her grandmother took her to worship in the Baptist Church. Before the warm weather comes upon us Linda wanted us to know that she has many tattoos, all of which have a spiritual significance for her. Before coming to our church Linda felt "something was missing".

I am happy to say that she feels at home and very comfortable in our family of faith. Linda and Michael have been involved since they began attending. I am glad they're with us. ~Marge Pagliuca



Briefing from the BORF

The BORF is happy to communicate that the Conditions Assessment (50% funded by the NH Preservation Alliance) was completed on March 21. We are expecting to get some preliminary information over the next few weeks and the final report in early May. This is the beginning of the process and we still have much more work to do to finalize this initial step toward applying for additional grants from LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) to help fund some of the future repairs and restorations. The assessment, which took over 6 hours, was done by Preservation Timber Framing from Berwick ME. Nate, Donna, and Jean will be attending a required workshop on May 1st to help us prepare the “Intent to Apply” form due in mid-May for the 2019 grant rounds.

The new sound system has been designed and we are waiting to be scheduled for the installation. Many thanks to all who have made this possible by donations or taking the time to work out the details with the supplier. This new system will improve the audio portion of our worship service!

There will be a Spring Clean-up day scheduled for April 21 (rain date April 28) from 8:AM until noon for all Church properties. General cleanup from the winter, raking, etc. will be the goal. Please join us if you can as this is always a great time of fellowship (along with a good workout and some much appreciated fresh air!).

Last but not least, plans are underway to finalize the Church vegetable gardens for 2018! Four new beds for veggies and four smaller “anchor” beds for flowers and herbs are planned. We also would like to dig up the existing sod and grass, lay down landscape fabric, and cover with stone dust to create clean, defined paths around the beds and the pergola. A special Garden Work day(s) will be announced once the snow is gone!! We could certainly use some help (physical and financial) with this if possible so stay tuned as we work with Mother Nature to have the best garden yet and continue this as an outreach to our community as well as our congregation.

As always, the BORF would like to thank all who continue to offer help any time we need it! 2018 is looking like a very interesting and productive year and we could not do it without you!

Respectfully submitted by the 2018 Board of Resources and Finance.

The Board of Resources and Finance for 2018 consists of Nate Rockwell, Norman Field, Donna Foote, Jean Gagnon and Penny Henderson.



MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

One of the several U.C.C. Mission groups of the N.H. Conference within its Peace and Justice Ministry is one called **“Spirituality and Earth Stewardship”**. It is a mission that is focused on caring for and protecting all the parts of God’s Creation that surround us, through education, preaching, and advocacy through the political process. It is trying to help all of us to become more continually aware of the world around us, to be acutely alert to dangers that threaten it and to grow in our ability to faithfully care for it and protect it from dangers. March and April include two dates that are uniquely important to this Mission group. They are March 22nd which was **World Water Day**, and April 22nd which will be **Earth Day**.

Some of us can still remember a time before there was plastic trash, and when something could still be repaired instead of thrown away. But we all live in a different reality today. We see pictures of football fields of plastic floating in the Pacific, and hear about parts of our earth that have become ‘super-fund sites’ or large factory farms that contaminate ground waters, or war zones covered with weapons waste. We have heard that the residents of Cape Town, in South Africa, are faced with a possible “Day Zero” as early as this summer, when the city will have to shut off its faucets except to give a measured amount of water to each resident each day because its reservoirs are nearly dry.

In the Book of Genesis, Chapter 1, verse 9, are the words, **“Then God said, ‘Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so. And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.”** In the real world today, learning how to care for and protect what God saw as good, and make it good again, is a huge stewardship challenge for us all.

The Board of Missions for 2018—Joanne Millsaps; Colleen Towle has volunteered to become a member.



We distributed 20 Easter boxes on Saturday, March 24th. Thanks to the following groups for their donations and help: Chester Academy Student Council held a food drive, Mrs. Dantos made Easter goodie bags for the children, and thanks to the Church family and Girl Scouts for setting up.

The children will be on spring break in April and the following items are especially needed: peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned pasta, cereal and juice.

Current Food Pantry needs:

Cereal	Powdered drink mixes	Oatmeal
Peanut Butter	Canned Fruit	Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti O's or other canned pasta	Jams and Jellies	Pancake mix
BBQ Condiments—mustard, ketchup, relish, etc.		

****Supermarket gift cards are always welcome (\$15, \$20, \$25 and \$30 amounts) ****
Please contact Cindy at 887-4626 if you have any questions. *Thanks. Cindy McLaughlin*



The View from the Bench

P.D.Q. Bach

The name of P.D.Q. Bach, the last and by far the least of the children of the great Johann Sebastian Bach, would be completely unknown to history, and rightly so, were it not for the tireless efforts of Professor Peter Schickele. A random discovery of the manuscript of the “Sanka Cantata” started the professor on his lifetime project of finding and cataloguing the works, if you want to call them that, of the work-averse son of a Bach.

It is well known how J.S. Bach walked 250 miles to Lübeck just to hear the great organist Dieterich Buxtehude play. In 1757 P.D.Q. Bach, then aged 15, repeated his father’s historic journey, walking the 250 miles to Lübeck, only to find that Dieterich Buxtehude had been dead for fifty years. However, he arrived just in time for the famous Lübeck Wine-Tasting Festival which had a profound influence on the young composer. Contemporary accounts suggest that he was never completely sober for the next 45 years.

Many of the works he wrote during this time, the “Soused” period, have been performed and recorded by Professor Schickele, including “Concerto for Horn and Hardart”, “Schleptet in E-flat Major”, “Concerto for Piano vs. Orchestra”, and the operas “The Abduction of Figaro” and “Hansel and Gretel and Ted and Alice”.

In the last period of his life, which the Professor labels “Contrition”, P.D.Q. Bach gave up drinking – in vain, as far as the quality of his compositions was concerned – and wrote several works for the Church, most of which were put on the Index of Forbidden Music even before the ink was dry. Unfortunately no traces of the “Mass in the Allah Mode”, the “Half-Nelson Mass”, or the “Passion According to Hoyle” have turned up. We do have a small number of organ pieces P.D.Q. wrote for no known occasion, or no known reason for that matter. Professor Schickele has recently published his “Drei Choralfundierte Stückchen” or “Three Chorale-based Piecelets.”

The Professor has scoured hymnals in libraries throughout Europe in an effort to identify the chorale melodies on which these piecelets are based, with no success so far. Perhaps he should have tried to read the hymnals before applying the scouring pad, but it’s too late for that now. Anyway, one of the piecelets is a prelude on “an American Hymn for the Last Sunday Before the Fourth Day of the Seventh Month After New Year’s Eve.” This hymn, whatever it is, is also heard in the composer’s “1712 Overture”.

The second piecelet identifies the tune as “Orally.” This may have been accidentally transcribed from a pharmaceutical prescription. The third, “In der Nacht so Hell, der Petrus ist mein Freund,” is translated as “In the Well-Lit Night, St. Peter is My friend.” The Professor has recorded all three piecelets on the organ of the King Congregational Church in Fayray, North Dakota.

Mark Lutton, Music Director

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:30am Easter Dawn Service 10am Family Worship 	2	3	4 6:30pm BORF meeting	5 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 Communion Sunday	9	10	11	12 7pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 11am Memorial Service for the Rev. Priscilla Schumm
15 11am Deacons' meeting	16	17	18	19 7pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 8am-noon church clean-up day 7pm The Interfaith Choir Concert, St.
22 4pm The Interfaith Choir Concert, CCBC 	23	24	25	26 7pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28 Clean-up day (rain date) 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
29 11am Cabinet meeting	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> Sunday Church Services: *10am Family Worship and Sunday School *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month* </div>				



Chester Congregational Baptist Church
United Church of Christ and American Baptist Churches

Worship Service and Sunday School

Family Worship 10 am

~ Children attend Sunday School during Worship ~

Communion is received the first Sunday of every month

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Vestry following Worship

Office Hours

Admin. Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to noon

Pastor Rackliffe: By appointment

Staff

Pastor:	The Rev. Linda J. Rackliffe
Music Director:	Mark Lutton
Administrative Assistant:	Frances Kenison
Custodian:	Teresa Rogers

Community Food Pantry

Open 4th Saturday of each month, 9am to noon, in the Vestry.

For more information call: Cindy McLaughlin at 887-4626

Contact Us

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Church Website: chesternhchurch.org