



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

April, 2019

Upcoming Events

Special Church Meeting, Sunday, April 7th

11am in the Church Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, April 14th

10 am Worship Service

Maundy Thursday, April 18th

6:00pm Service in the Vestry

Easter Sunday, April 21st

6:00am Easter Dawn service followed by a Resurrection Breakfast

10am Family Worship

Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 27th ~ 8am—noon

**Installation of the Reverend Gordon Rankin
as NH Conference Minister**

1:30pm on Saturday, April 27th at First Congregational Church, Wolfeboro



Please join us every Sunday for Worship at 10:00am

Communion is the 1st Sunday of every month

Lines from Linda,

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. (Luke 4:1-2 CEB)

On the First Sunday of Lent, I used verses 1-13 in chapter 13 of the Gospel of Luke to talk about Jesus' journey into the wilderness and the temptations he faced. After those temptations he began his ministry on earth. The two verses quoted here are the beginning of that passage.

That passage was appropriate for the Lent, as we take time during Lent to look at ourselves and our relationship to God and Christ. I agree with The Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, former Executive Director of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches, USA, who once wrote: *"I came to see Lent as a time of intentionality where we could engage in ways that would strengthen and deepen our relationship with God through Jesus Christ."* Lent is a more introspective period than other periods of the Christian year because we are taking stock of ourselves. It is also a quieter time as we find ourselves in prayer and contemplation rather than celebrations. Lent can be a time of learning about ourselves. Our reflections may make this a difficult time as we enter the wilderness places of our own lives. These are often places where we do not want to go.

Yet, when we take time to strengthen and deepen our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we find hope and joy. Lent can move us from those wilderness places to the mountaintops or at least begin to move us from what appears to be darkness into light.

This year with Easter being later in the year, we see the differences in nature as we entered spring. On the first day of spring we had equal light and darkness. Every day now the light increases and the darkness diminishes. Yes, there is still cold and some snow, but in Chester the snow is disappearing and we are noticing warmer days. The Iris are beginning to poke their leaves through the dirt and the birds are returning with their song.

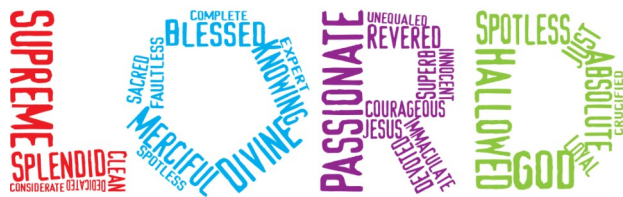
While nature is rejoicing, we should be rejoicing. We still must move through Holy Week with the Last Supper, commemorated on Maundy Thursday, and the agony of the cross on Good Friday. Yet the hope of God's love comes through the empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

May the Holy Spirit be with us as we continue through this Lenten journey in the wilderness by committing ourselves to deepening our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



Lillian Arthur

JB

Keith Barnes, Mel and Judy Balk's nephew

Harry Carter, friend of Mel and Judy Balk

Abby Collins, Jane Collins' granddaughter
(Jane is Marge Pagliuca's sister)

Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's step father

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Phil Fontaine, friend of Donna Foote and Jean Gagnon

Jamie Hamblett, Mary's nephew

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Janet MacGray

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family members

Cliff Millsaps

Marge Pagliuca

Shirley Pike

Brenda Price

Samantha Rivera Raiche, granddaughter of Isabel Rivera, ABC VNH Region Past President, who has a rare form of bone cancer.

Phil Streeter

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

Joan Towle, Colleen Towle's sister-in-law

Bill Veazey, Lynn Rockwell's father

The people of Zimbabwe

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Janet MacGray

Barbara Rice

Evelyn Wise

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

Alice McQuaid who passed away on January 24th

Carol Baker, Kim Cremin's mother, who passed away March 4th

Bill Curtin, who passed away on March 23rd



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, April 14th at 11:00am



Maximus John Lufkin was baptized on Sunday, March 10th. His parents are Jesse and Elizabeth, and he has two brothers, Jack and Ryker. Maximus' Godparents are John Merry and Cecelia Merry.



Remember to shop AmazonSmile!

Amazon.com offers an amazing income opportunity for non-profit groups and Chester Congregational Baptist Church is part of AmazonSmile. You do not need to set up a new Amazon.com account and your purchase price does not increase. Amazon is willing to share its sales commission with non-profits. All it takes is anyone who wants to make an online purchase using Amazon.com. Use the Amazon link below to start shopping:



Here's what's happening!



Lincoln Pierce Hanna and Franklin Anderson Hanna

Born March 6, 2019, both weighed a few ounces over 5 pounds and are 18 and 19.25 inches respectively. Parents are Joe and Bailey Hanna, and older brother Jackson is excited to have identical twin brothers.

Welcome Jameson Mathias Correia!

Jameson was born on March 18, 2019, weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". His parents are Jason and Megan Correia, his brother is Chase and grandmother is Penny Henderson.

All are doing great!

Healing the Divide ~ 2019 Gathering

Saturday, April 6th ~ 8:15 am to 3:15 pm

First Congregational Church, 508 Union Street, Manchester

Presented by Open & Affirming Mission Group, NHCUCC

This year's event, Healing the Divide, features:

- Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Paula Stone Williams Activist for transgender concerns
- Andy Lang, Executive Director, Open & Affirming Coalition
- Brad Peacock, Veteran, Organic Farmer, and Former U.S. Senate Candidate
- James Crews, Award-Winning Poet
- The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus

Register online at NHCUCC.org

*Full Day Registration: \$25 including lunch; \$30 at door *Student Registration: \$15 Full day session w/ lunch

*FREE—Afternoon poetry reading & performances; 1:00 pm—3:15 pm. No registration required.

Chester Congregational Baptist Church of Chester, NH

A special meeting of the Congregational Baptist Church of Chester, NH will be held on April 7th, 2019 immediately following worship. The following shall be the order of business:

An update on the Capital Campaign.

A motion to approve the Campaign Executive Committee.

Any other business that may come before the church.

Per Order of the Clerk,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Rockwell".

Lynn Rockwell



The Interfaith Choir

presents

God's Global Love

Songs of faith from around the world

Saturday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

*Church of the Transfiguration, 1 Hood Rd, Derry
and*

Sunday, April 14th at 4:00 p.m.

Mary Queen of Peace, 200 Lawrence Rd, Salem

Admission is FREE

Refreshments following each concert. A free will offering will be accepted at the concerts.

Worship Schedule



Palm Sunday – April 14th - 10am Worship service

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Service, April 18th – 6:00pm in the Vestry



Easter Sunday, April 21st – 6:00am Easter Dawn Service is outside behind the Church (weather permitting) followed by a Resurrection Breakfast in the Vestry. Family Worship is at 10am.



Work Day

Church Clean-up day

Saturday, April 27th ~ 8am to noon

Rain date is Saturday, May 11th ~ 8am—noon

Reverend Gordon Rankin will be Installed as Conference Minister on Saturday, April 27th



Installation

The members of our New Hampshire Conference churches and our Authorized Ministers are invited to gather in celebration and covenant for the Installation of the Reverend Gordon M. Rankin as the Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 1:30 in the afternoon

Place: First Congregational Church, Wolfeboro

Easter Flowers

It's time to order your Easter plants, which will grace our sanctuary on Easter morning, April 21st. After the service you may bring them home or arrangements can be made to have them delivered to shut-ins.

Please mail in this form, along with your check made out to the Chester Congregational Baptist Church, to the church office **by Tuesday, April 9th.**



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Given in memory of _____

Or

in celebration of _____

I would like to order the following Easter plants....

<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6" Tulip _____ (Colors available: white, pink, red, purple, yellow or orange)	\$10.00	\$ _____
6" Daffodil _____	\$10.00	\$ _____
6" Hyacinth _____	\$10.00	\$ _____
6" Lily _____	\$10.00	\$ _____
Double Lily _____	\$22.00	\$ _____
Triple Lily _____	\$30.00	\$ _____
Total # of plants: _____	Total enclosed	\$ _____

☐ I will pick up my plants after the Easter morning service.

☐ I would like to have my plants delivered to shut-ins.

Our St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday, March 16th was a great success and a fun time was had by everyone!



Pastor Linda Rackliffe and Gen Rowell



Raffle items that were generously donated by church members



The "Kitchen Crew": Colleen Towle, Jan Woodhouse, Elva Hawkins, Linda Noyes and Lannie Crowley.



Spring has finally come. We look forward to the warmer weather as we come to the end of the Lenten season. The pulpit hangings are purple. The Communion Table has the cloth with the ashes imprinted on from the Ash Wednesday service of 2018.

Big thank you's go to Marge Pagliuca and Gen Rowell as they leave the Board of Deacons after many years of service. We warmly welcome Teresa Rogers as she joins the Board. We are still short two members.

In April we will finish the Lenten Season by remembering Christ's last week on earth—Palm Sunday (14th), Maundy Thursday, (18th) and then Easter (21st). Palms will be distributed as we remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Thursday, starting at 6:00 p.m. we will remember Christ's Last Supper with his disciples. This will include a light supper, the hand washing (He washed feet), a devotional, and sharing Communion. Sunday will begin with an early morning service 6:00 a.m. followed by breakfast in the Vestry. At 10:00 a.m. we will rejoice in Christ's resurrection. Please join us.

As you enter the sanctuary on the left, there is now a corner for small children, complete with a rocking chair and small table and two chairs. On the pew there are materials for the children to use. We welcome children in the service.

Flowers for the Communion table are always welcome, but please check with our Administrative Assistant first. I

If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please let us know. We have prayer shawls, a Deacons' Discretionary Fund, and helping hands available.

Deb Field is the April Deacon of the Month.

The Deacons are Deb Field, Mary Hamblett, Paul Scott and Teresa Rogers.



Briefing from the BORF

The month of March has been extremely busy for the BORF and some additional key church leaders who have joined us to form the initial leadership team to address the plans for the Meeting House Preservation Project. We are truly grateful to Marge Pagliuca (Moderator), Lynn Rockwell (Clerk), Deb Field (Diaconate), and Frances Kenison (Administrative Assistant) for their insight and experience. We know how busy everyone already is and their willingness to help us work through this just reinforces what we already know...that we are a group of dedicated and enthusiastic people with a mission to keep our beautiful building sound for future generations!

We received the Feasibility Study results from David and Patricia Williams and reviewed the results first as a team. We then shared the information and our collective recommendations with the congregation at a formal business meeting on (a very snowy) Sunday March 10th after worship. The bottom line was a unanimous agreement that we go forward and hire the Williamses as capital campaign consultants to help us reach a financial goal that we will feel is fair and achievable. The BORF realizes that a large part of our responsibilities is to be prudent with the church finances and we intend to hold true to that! The next step is one of the most difficult! We will be determining who has the skills and willingness to fill the necessary roles to make this a successful campaign. Please continue to prayerfully ask God to help each of us to determine what our role may be.

The BORF would like to thank all who continue to help and contribute with all their gifts and talents so graciously!

Respectfully submitted by the 2019 Board of Resources and Finance.

The Current Board of Resources and Finance consists of Fran Bechtold, Norm Field, Donna Foote, Jean Gagnon, Penny Henderson, and Nate Rockwell.

NEW SEVERE WEATHER DISASTERS

We all have seen TV pictures of the terrible flooding in the Midwest, with more snow still to melt, which may worsen the flooding, and some of us have also received e-mails that have passed on the news of the great destruction caused by Cyclone Idai on three African countries, including Zimbabwe. Many people in the town of Chipinge, where our sister church is located, have been washed away in the floods that followed torrential rains and others have been crushed by boulders moved by the floods and severe winds. Only a few have been identified, so it's possible that one or more of those we have corresponded with are among the missing. Hundreds of homes have floated away or been destroyed in both places, leaving thousands homeless. Our concern for both regions was expressed at the Cabinet meeting on Sunday, Mar. 24th. Because we presently don't have anyone on the Board of Missions, the Cabinet agreed to serve in its place and authorize that mission funds be sent to provide disaster relief in both regions. In news received from the N.H. Conference, UCC, it was suggested that churches dedicate part or all of their ***One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)*** receipts to help in Zimbabwe or in the larger region there. Since it is our policy to always send half of the Special Offerings, (like ***OGHS***), to the ABC and half to the UCC, the Cabinet decided to designate the half going to the ABC to go to disaster relief in the mid-western area of our country, and the half that would go to the UCC be designated for disaster relief in the African region affected by the huge cyclone there, which includes Zimbabwe where our sister church is. It is hoped that everyone will give as much as they can to the ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** offering on Sunday this week or next, to help people in both areas who have been devastated by flooding they have never experienced before.

Submitted by Joanne Millsaps, on behalf of the Cabinet



The Food Pantry will distribute the Easter baskets on Saturday, April 13th from 9am to noon in the Vestry. Set-up will be on Thursday, April 11th beginning at 3pm.

Special items needed for the Easter Baskets:

Pie Filings	Pie Crusts	Baking Mixes
Pork Stuffing Mix	Canned Pineapple	

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



2019 Church Vegetable Garden – April Update

The snow piles and ice are melting in the Church yard leaving behind the ever present mud and winter mess! We have some pre-planting work to do in **April** to prepare for our (best ever?) 2019 vegetable garden! **May** will be the month we begin planting some of the cold hardy veggies and by the first week in **June** all the heat loving plants and seeds should be in place and starting to grow.

If you get a chance, stop by and take a look at the garden paths (or see picture below)! They have been covered with crushed stone which gives the garden a beautiful finished look that will be easy to maintain and keep weeds at bay! This work was done by local landscaper Jordan Lighthall and was funded by memorial donations given in memory of Gladys Nicoll. Anyone who knew Gladys knew she was an avid gardener who loved the outdoors. We felt this was a very appropriate way to honor her memory as a kind and devoted long time church member.

Here is the basic task list of what needs to be done in April before we start planting in May:

1. Install flashing to divert the rain water that flows through the garden.
2. Rake, clean out, fertilize, and rototill the beds.
3. Top beds off with new additional soil/compost if needed.
4. Start seedlings indoors.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the gardens around the Church, we would be grateful! Please see Donna Foote if you have questions, comments, or would like to help in any way!

Thank You!

Submitted by Donna Foote



New Hampshire Council of Churches ~ Cycle of Prayer

Beloved, pray for us. (1 Thess. 5:25)

The NH Council of Churches has ten member denominations and there are about 475 congregations with membership in one (or more) of these denominations. This cycle groups congregations in sets of 9-10 for each week of the year. In using this in your congregation, you may wish to: Pray for the 9-10 congregations each Sunday in the Prayers of the People, General Intercessions, Universal Prayer or Pastoral Prayer as fits your own worship tradition. Pray for the congregations in smaller sets in daily or midweek prayer services. Below are the churches in the April, 2019 prayer cycle.

- April 7** New Rye Union Congregational Church-Epsom
Chichester United Methodist Church-Epsom
First Baptist Church-Etna
First Congregational Church, Hanover Center-Etna
First Baptist Church-Exeter
St. Michael Parish-Exeter
Christ Episcopal Church-Exeter
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter
The Congregational Church in Exeter, UCC
- April 14** Exeter United Methodist Church
St. Peter Parish-Farmington
First Congregational Church-Farmington
Fitzwilliam Community Church, UCC
Community Church, Frankestown (UCC)
Community Church of Christ (ABC, UCC)-Franconia
The Baptist Church of Franklin
St. Gabriel Parish-Franklin
Transfiguration Church (Greek Orthodox)-Franklin
- April 21** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin
Congregational Christian Church, W Franklin
Franklin United Methodist Church
People's United Methodist Church-Fremont
Gilford Community Church (American Baptist)
First United Methodist Church-Gilford
Gilmanton Community Church (American Baptist)
Gilsum Congregational Church
Goffstown Christian Fellowship (American Baptist)
- April 28** First Spanish American Baptist Church-Goffstown
St. Lawrence Parish-Goffstown
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church-Goffstown
Hillside United Methodist Church-Goffstown
St. Leo Parish-Gonic
Gonic Friends Meeting
Gorham Congregational Church, UCC
Goshen Community Church (American Baptist)
Grantham United Methodist Church
Community Congregational Church, UCC-Greenland

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 11am Special Church meeting	8	9	10 6:30pm BORF meeting	11 3:30 Set up for Food Pantry in Vestry 7pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13 9am-noon Food Pantry Easter baskets in Vestry
14 11am Deacons' meeting PALM  SUNDAY	15	16	17	18 6:00pm Maundy Thursday service in the Vestry MAUNDY  THURSDAY	19 GOOD  FRIDAY	20
21 6:00am Easter Dawn service 10am Family Worship 	22  THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S PSALM 24:1	23	24	25 7pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 8am-noon Clean-up day 1:30 Rev. Rankin installation service
28	29	30	Sunday Church Services: *10:00am Family Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*			



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

Worship Service

Family Worship 10:00 am

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**

Interim Organist: Mary Hamblett

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

Parsonage Phone: 603-887-4792

Pastor Email: chesternhpastor@mygsc.com

Office Phone: 603-887-4799

Office Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

Church Website: chesternhchurch.org