



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit
December, 2018



Upcoming Events

Christmas in the Village
Saturday, December 1st ~ 9am-2pm

Special Church Meeting
Sunday, December 2nd ~ 11:00am

Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 9th ~ 7:00pm

Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 16th during 10:00am Worship Service

Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 24th ~ 5:00pm



Please join us every Sunday for Worship at 10:00am
Communion is the 1st Sunday of every month

lines from linda,

Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever, for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death. (Psalm 86: 11-13 CEB)

The season of giving started with Thanksgiving and it continues at least through Christmas. We should give of ourselves and give thanks at all times, but we tend to focus on the holiday season.

At times I feel like the Grinch during this time. It seems that I become so busy doing things and preparing for Christmas that it is difficult to celebrate Christmas. Perhaps I feel that we tend to forget what we are really celebrating. A long time ago in high school I gave a speech about the commercialization of Christmas and that was before Black Friday and Cyber Monday/week.

Some of the news of the past month or so brings me back to the basics and the necessity of giving thanks for God's presence and the coming of the Christ Child. Remember that the Christ Child came because of God's love for us.

There are people in the Merrimack valley of Massachusetts who are lacking heat and ways for cooking. The wildfires in California decimated the town of Paradise as well as other areas. Due to the rains that are coming and there is the fear of mudslides, many still cannot go back to damaged areas even see the charred ruins of their homes. As I write this the wet heavy snow of Tuesday took out trees and power lines New Hampshire towns such as Madison and Grantham.

Despite all that is happening we are seeing people coming together and helping those in need. There were those who made sure that people affected by the wildfires had a Thanksgiving dinner. In Massachusetts Thanksgiving meals were provided for those whose lives are still in limbo due to the gas explosions. Chester Academy had a 'Turkey Hunt' to provide many of the turkeys for the Chester food pantry.

While I specifically mentioned Thanksgiving events, people are still finding ways to help persons in need. It is amazing how people will come together and give when needs are known.

Let us remember the love of God, which comes to us through the child whose birth we celebrate this month. As we give thanks for that love, may our giving due to that love happen throughout the entire year and not simply between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CHESTER CONGREGATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHESTER, N. H.

A special meeting of the Congregational Baptist Church of Chester, New Hampshire will be held in the church Sanctuary, on Sunday, December 2, 2018 immediately following the 10:00 am Worship Service.

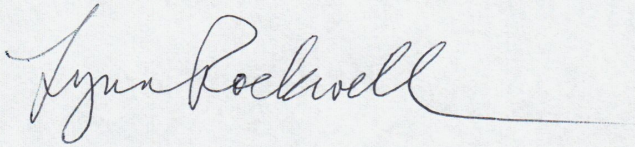
The following shall be the order of business:

The BORF will present an update on its efforts to address the problem in the church building as identified in the Conditions and Assessment Report received from Preservation Timber Framing Inc.

Vote to spend \$3,500 on an assessment as to the church's ability to raise the funds necessary to address the problem in the church building as identified in the Conditions and Assessment Report.

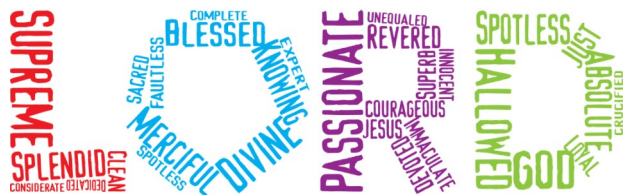
To consider any other business that may be presented.

Per order of the Clerk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynn Rockwell", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lynn Rockwell, Clerk

CALL ON HIS NAME



Annika Akselsson, Joanne Millsaps' cousin
Jack Arnold, Sandy and Hilary Hall's uncle
(Lois Lee Hall's brother)

Lillian Arthur

Bruce Baker, his wife, Cheryl, works at the
Loaf & Ladle

Bree Coward, Nate and Lynn Rockwell's niece

Bill Curtin

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Alex Ferron

Mary Hamblett

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Steve Hebert

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Rhonda List

Janet MacGray

Family and friends of **Stephen Mischler**, Mel
and Judy Balks friends Scott and Celia Mischler's
son

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family
members

Cliff Millsaps

Family and friends of **Mrs. Ellen Mpofu**, along
with the Rev. Dr. Mpofu and the people of their
church community

Allan Poole, Nate Rockwell's cousin

Brenda Price

Barbara Rice

Sally St. Clair

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

The people of Zimbabwe

For all who have been affected by the wild
fires in California and other recent
natural disasters

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Janet MacGray

Barbara Rice

Evelyn Wise



BOARD MEETINGS

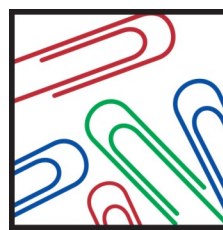
Upcoming Board Meetings:

Special Church Meeting – Sunday,
December 2nd at 11:00am

BORF (presentation) – Wednesday, December
5th at 4:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, December 9th at 11:00am

BORF – Wednesday, December 12th at 6:30pm



Office Hours

Pastor Linda will be on vacation from
Tuesday, December 25th through Tuesday,
January 1st, returning on Wednesday, January
2nd.

Frances Kenison will be on vacation from
Monday, December 24th through Tuesday,
January 1st, returning on Wednesday,
January 2nd.



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!



Blue Christmas

A service of remembrance, comfort and hope

Sunday, December 9th at 7pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

The Christmas season is one of great joy. But for many people it can be a difficult time as well, whether because of personal loss or other life challenges this can be a poignant season. If you or friends of yours are experiencing these challenges we invite you to join us for a service of light and remembrance. *This is a shared service with Longmeadow Congregational Church.*

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



Christmas Cantata ~ "Angel's Song"

Sunday, December 16th at 10am Worship

by John Innes and Don Krueger

The Christmas story has been told so many times and in so many ways that it almost seems redundant to try to tell it again. Yet the story itself is so timeless and full of the deepest meaning to believers everywhere that it seemed appropriate to review once more those unique events, and to put them in a fresh musical setting.

Our initial point of reference is the song the angels sang the night of

the dramatic announcement that the Savior had been born, and proceeds from that point first retrospectively to the promises of His coming by the prophets and then on to the events surrounding His birth. Before the final restatement of the theme there is a musical prayer that expresses our own desire for all who may hear these simple songs – that the Christ who was born in the manger so long ago be born today in the hearts of men.

FAREWELL MARK!

Farewell Celebration for Mark Lutton
Sunday, December 23rd following Worship

Please join us in the Vestry following worship as we bid farewell to our Music Director, Mark Lutton.



Christmas in the Village
Saturday, December 1st

9am – 2pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church Vestry
4 Chester Street, Chester

Our craft sale features quality,
handmade crafts, unique holiday
gifts, delicious bake shop, Tiffany's
of Chester, live music and wassail
for all to enjoy.

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At Stevens Memorial Hall:  
*Loaf and Ladle Lunch* will be  
served from 11am-2pm  
*Chester Seniors Cookie Walk*  
begins at 9am

Please visit our website: [www.chesternhchurch.org](http://www.chesternhchurch.org)

Christmas Eve Services

*Monday, December 24th*

*5:00pm ~ Service of Lessons and Carols*

*There is an 11:00pm service at the  
Longmeadow Church, UCC in Auburn*





## **Upcoming Holiday Events**

### **Rockingham Choral Society Concert ~ “Shout for Joy!”**

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm**

*Exeter Congregational Church, Exeter*

**Info:** General admission is \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance. Seniors and students are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance. Advance tickets available online at [rockinghamchoralsociety.org](http://rockinghamchoralsociety.org).

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Mark209~The Christmas Concert from the Heart of Nashville

Friday, December 7th at 7pm

St. Mary Church, 182 Main Street, Newmarket

Newmarket Community Church is partnering with St. Mary Church to host this talented musical group. Tickets are \$5. For more info please email Colin White at thewhtecastle@comast.net.

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### **The Interfaith Choir Winter Concert ~ “Christmas Is ...”**

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

*Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main Street, Hampstead*

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

*Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church, 171 Zion Hill Road, Salem*

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Astros United Holiday Tea Party

Saturday, December 8th 1-4pm

Pinkerton Academy Senior Cafeteria, \$10 donation per family. All money raised will to towards the Center for Life Management. There will be character meet and greets, games, music and more!

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### **2018 Christmas in New England Concert Tour**

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**

*Pilgrim UCC Church, Brentwood. Admission is \$15 at the door only.*

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The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus

2018 Holiday Concerts ~ “Don We Now Our Gay Apparel”

Sunday, December 2nd at 4pm

South Church, Portsmouth

Saturday, December 8th at 7:30pm

Wesley United Methodist Church, Concord

Sunday, December 9th at 4pm

The Derryfield School, Manchester

Tickets are available online at nhgmc.com.

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## **Upcoming Holiday Events** **(continued)**



### **WildVine Jazz Presents a Series of Concerts to Support Frank L. Irvine Fund for Justice and Nonviolence**

The performances will be free and their CD, Christmas with WildVine Jazz, will be on sale to raise money for the fund.

#### **Performances are scheduled for:**

**December 2, 9:30 AM Service**

*Second Congregational Church, Ossipee*

**December 16, 1:00 PM**

*First Congregational Church (Jazz Sanctuary), Concord*

**December 23, 2:30 PM**

*First Congregational Church, Haverhill*

**December 30, 9:30 AM service**

*South Newbury Union Church, Newbury*

**January 6, 2019, 10:00 AM service**



### **NH Conference UCC ~ Advent Open House**

**Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm**

*Whittemore Room of the Conference Center, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke*

The New Hampshire UCC Conference Staff invites you to an afternoon of fellowship and refreshments at our annual Advent Open House. No reservation needed. Please join us as we celebrate the joy and hope of this sacred season. All are welcome!





Everyone talks of the weather. Not one of us can do a thing about it! We've had rain, we've had snow, we've had wind and we've had frigid temperatures winter hasn't even begun. Thanks to all of our helpers, the church is decorated for Advent and communion Sunday on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Judging by the sign-up sheets we will have a lot of elves helping with our Christmas in the Village Fair on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully all will have a chance to visit and support our church fair, the Loaf and Ladle luncheon at Stevens Memorial Hall and the other Christmas fairs located throughout Chester. Thank you to all of the crafters who have been so busy this year preparing for the fair. Even if you don't craft, our bake table can sure use some help. Baked goods can be dropped off between 8 and 9 am at the Vestry. Please contact Deb Field if you have any questions regarding the fair. We will be setting up on Wednesday afternoon.

December's Deacon of the month is Gen Rowell. Don't forget our Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in conjunction with Longmeadow Congregational Church of Auburn. The service will be at our church. The Christmas Cantata will be our worship service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent; December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Christmas Eve service this year will be at 5:00pm. The choir will be singing and there will only be one service.

This is a great time to begin a prayer shawl. It's a great way to unwind after hectic holiday shopping days. Sitting beside your fireplace in the chilly evenings with a nice cup of tea is a nice way to unwind, meditate and mindfully say prayers to the unknown people who will receive such a heartfelt gift. It seems like many need the shawls during the fall, winter and spring. 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. Deb Field will provide copies of prayer shawl patterns for knit and crochet so that we can make sure the shawls go around shoulders.

The choir is presently rehearsing for the Christmas Cantata. The ads are out for a new music director. December 30<sup>th</sup> will be Mark's last Sunday at the organ/piano. A search committee has been established to find a new director. If you have suggestions please give them to any member of the search committee. The search committee is: Fran Bechtold, Jean Gagnon, Paul Scott, Marge Pagliuca and Pastor Linda Rackliffe. We will also have current music director, Mark Lutton, weighing in on the decision.

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 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. Typically flowers are not displayed on the first Sunday of the month as it is always communion Sunday.

The deacons would like to remind all of our members to post your comments and photos of church activities to our Facebook page. Please be sure you are posting to **Chester Congregational Baptist Church on Facebook**. You should see the web address for our church underneath the name – it will say [chesternhchurch.org](http://chesternhchurch.org). Other pages are not administered and not affiliated with our church, even though you might see a photo of our church.

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.*



## Briefing from the BORF

Winter greeting from your BORF! Seriously, we know it isn't officially winter yet but once again Mother Nature showed her clout by sending many days of cold rain as well as two early snow storms in advance of Thanksgiving! The 4 (yes 4!) scheduled and re-scheduled Work Day cleanups that were meant to focus on the Parsonage were either rained or snowed out! A few helpful people went solo and did some raking and cleanup and we thank them! What this means is that we are going to need an all-out effort in the spring and may need to schedule a few work days to try to get back on track with our physical property needs.

As we believe everyone is aware, the BORF has been working diligently to come up with possible plans and options to address the necessary rehabilitation and restoration needed to save our steeple and preserve and repair the damage caused by water leakage. We have scheduled extra meetings and have met with several experts to give us their opinions in their areas of expertise. These meetings were focused primarily on two separate issues: getting a detailed plan (often referred to as the "playbook") to get the physical work done and conducting a feasibility study to determine how much we could expect to raise and what the time frame would be to fund this project.

There will be a special business meeting after Sunday service on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to present this information and answer questions. The BORF strongly recommends all members, friends and interested parties to attend. This project may be the responsibility of the BORF to manage....but it will not be successful unless every person who wants to see our beautiful church remain in the center of Chester becomes involved in some way. Please pray for this project and ask God to help each of us to determine what our role and contribution may be.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas Season!

*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.*

## *A Thank You letter from Chester Academy:*

Chester Academy Student Council thanks Chester Congregational Baptist Church for their generosity to the “Change For Vets” fundraiser conducted last Spring. Through various efforts of the Student Council over the past three years, \$1100 has been donated to the Veterans Heritage Learning Center located at the NH State Veterans Cemetery. The Learning Center is an interactive venue for visitors to explore, make history come alive and realize the significant contributions of NH veterans from the 1600’s to the present.

A private ceremony commemorating the opening of the VHLC took place on Nov 1st and Madelyn Moore, a 7th grader at Chester Academy gave a speech on behalf of the Student Council. A footlocker housing a learning center activity for visitors has been dedicated to Chester Academy. The grand opening to the public occurred on Veterans Day, November 11, 2018 with a ribbon cutting ceremony by an Army Air Corps pilot celebrating his 100th birthday.

Further information about the VHLC and the educational opportunities at the State Veterans Cemetery can be found on the links below. Thanks you again for your assistance in supporting this worthwhile cause. Visiting the cemetery and VHLC, strolling the Memorial Walkway and 20 Granite Points of History, and listening to the live bugler sounding Taps is definitely is a must do summer day trip!

<https://www.wmur.com/article/veterans-heritage-learning-center-opens-at-nh-state-veterans-cemetery/24996309>

<https://nhvca.org/veterans-heritage-learning-center>

*Lynn-Marie Fawcett*  
*Readers' Workshop Teacher, Chester Academy*



### **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*

## QUOTATIONS FOR REFLECTION AT THE ADVENT SEASON AND AT YEAR'S END

**At this time when we hear so much hateful language,** some words from 'Ground Rules for Conversation' of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and from 'Seeking to Be Faithful Together' of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. "Pray for God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all". "Create space for everyone's concerns to be spoken, even when they disagree." "Realize that the Holy Spirit is present and active in the conversation and has given each participant a part of the truth you are seeking to discern."

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Story from a rabbi who asked his students how to recognize the moment when night ends and day begins: "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a dog from a sheep?" one student asked. "No, said the rabbi. "Is it when, from a great distance, you can tell a date palm from a fig tree?" another student asked. "No, said the rabbi. "Then when is it?" the students asked. The rabbi answered, "It is when you look into the face of any human creature and see your brother or your sister there. Until then, night is still with us."

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From Martin Luther King Jr.:

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

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Spoken by Joyce Ajlouny, the 2017 incoming general secretary of
The American Friends Service Committee (Quakers):

"The AFSC has a place to help communities overcome hopelessness and build on positive examples from our past and present". Point to ponder, 'Does our small church also have a role to play in helping those in our community to overcome the hopelessness that can engulf us as we hear about wild weather disasters, about bullying of our children and minorities, and of desperate refugees around the world, and as our ears are assaulted by an increasing level of public hate speech? How can we pass on, to those beyond our walls, some of the assurance, comfort, and love that God extends to us through Jesus?'

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*Shared as we look toward 2019, by members of the Missions and Christian Education group: Linda Noyes, Colleen Towle, Lannie Crowley, & Joanne Millsaps.*

# Chester Congregational Baptist Church

## December 2018

| Sunday                                                                                                         | Monday                                                                                                                   | Tuesday                                                                                                              | Wednesday                                                  | Thursday                                                                                      | Friday                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday Church Services:</b><br>*10:00am Family Worship<br>*Communion is on the first Sunday of every month* |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                      |                                                            |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                           | <b>1</b><br>9am-2pm<br>Christmas<br>in the<br>Village                       |
| <b>2</b><br>11am<br>Special<br>Church<br>Meeting                                                               | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>4</b>                                                                                                             | <b>5</b><br>4:30pm<br>BORF<br>meeting with<br>presentation | <b>6</b><br>7pm Choir<br>Rehearsal                                                            | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>8</b>                                                                    |
| <b>9</b><br>11am<br>Deacons'<br>meeting<br><b>7pm Blue<br/>           Christmas<br/>           Service</b>     | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                | <b>11</b>                                                                                                            | <b>12</b><br>4:30pm<br>BORF<br>meeting                     | <b>13</b><br>3:30pm Set<br>up for Food<br>Pantry<br><b>7pm Choir<br/>           Rehearsal</b> | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>15</b><br>9am-noon<br>Food Pantry<br>Christmas<br>baskets<br>distributed |
| <b>16</b><br>10am<br>Christmas<br>Cantata<br>during<br>Worship                                                 | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                | <b>18</b>                                                                                                            | <b>19</b>                                                  | <b>20</b><br>7pm Choir<br>Rehearsal                                                           | <b>21</b><br><br>First Day of Winter | <b>22</b>                                                                   |
| <b>23</b><br>11:00am<br>Farewell<br>Party for<br>Mark<br>Lutton                                                | <b>24</b><br>5pm<br>Christmas<br>Eve Service                                                                             | <b>25</b><br><br>Christmas<br>DAY | <b>26</b>                                                  | <b>27</b>                                                                                     | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>29</b>                                                                   |
| No office hours this week                                                                                      |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                      |                                                            |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                           |                                                                             |
| <b>30</b>                                                                                                      | <b>31</b><br><br>New<br>Year's<br>Eve |                                                                                                                      |                                                            |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                           |                                                                             |



**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**

|                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Pastor:</b>            | <b>The Rev. Linda J. Rackliffe</b> |
| 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**

**Parsonage Phone:** 603-887-4792

**Pastor Email:** [chesternhpastor@mygsc.com](mailto:chesternhpastor@mygsc.com)

**Music Director Email:** [chestermusic@marklutton.com](mailto:chestermusic@marklutton.com)

**Office Phone:** 603-887-4799

**Office Email:** [chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net](mailto:chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net)

**Church Website:** [chesternhchurch.org](http://chesternhchurch.org)