



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit
January & February, 2019



Upcoming Events

Epiphany

Sunday, January 6th

Cabinet Meeting

Sunday, January 6th

Annual Reports Due

Thursday, January 17th

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 3rd

Happy Valentine's Day

Thursday, February 14th

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

Lines from Linda,

“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight” (Isaiah 65:17-18 NRSV)

Winter began on December 21, 2018. While it was the beginning of winter and coldness, it was also the longest night of the year. Starting on December 22 the sun's movement began to create longer days with light. While the extension of daylight comes in small increments each day. The days become longer each day.

Now that Christmas is over and the decorations put away, we are celebrating Epiphany, the season of light as commemorated by the Wise Men and their visit to the Christ Child. Those ancient astrologers brought the child gifts and worshiped him. They recognized his importance to the world.

The celebrations surrounding the coming of the Christ Child remind us of what God told the ancient Israelites as they came back to Jerusalem from exile. The people were to rejoice in God's new creation. They were to start over in their lives with something new. The coming of the Christ Child to touch humanity was something new.

For us it is also the beginning of a new year. While it is hard to believe that it is already 2019, it is exciting as we look forward to new possibilities. We know there will be changes and differences in our lives. However, we are able to look forward to exploring all that God has in store for us, easy answers as well as challenges. We are rejuvenated as we rejoice in doing following God's call.

It is difficult to look at something new. There is comfort in the old and familiar. Many of us have Christmas decorations that were handed down for generations and they are important to us. Think though of the new ones that were added through the years. They also became important. We can embrace new things.

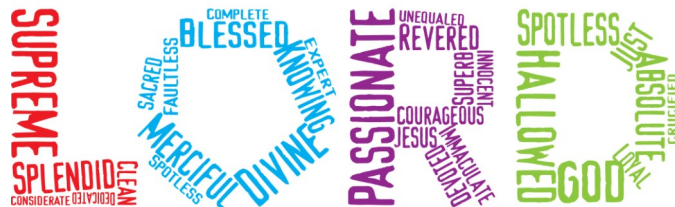
God created something new for the ancient Israelites. God created something new in the world when the Christ Child came to touch humanity. God is still creating new things. With the help of the Spirit may we recognize God's new creations and rejoice in 2019.

Have a Happy New Year celebrating Christ in our lives.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

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

Pat Carlise

Bill Curtin

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Alex Ferron

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Steve Hebert

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Rhonda List

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

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family
members

Cliff Millsaps

George Noyes

Brenda Price

Herb Rowell

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Janet MacGray

Barbara Rice

Evelyn Wise



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, January 2nd at 6:30pm,
Wednesday, January 9th at 6:30pm, Wednesday,
February 6th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, January 13th at 11am and
Sunday, February 10th at 11am

Cabinet— Sunday, January 6th at 11:00am

Annual Meeting—Sunday, February 3rd



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of shawls!
We have more requests for prayer shawls than we
have folks who can knit or crochet at this time.
There is yarn available for you to take in the back
of the church. Please contact Deb Field if you
have any questions.



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:





ROCKINGHAM VNA & HOSPICE

an exeter health resource

| The Art of Wellness

Rockingham VNA & Hospice will be offering 6 week long Bereavement Support Groups, starting on January 21st, 2019, in Exeter & Epping.

Monday daytime group, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at Epping Regional Health Center

Tuesday evening group, from 5:30-7:00 at RVNA & Hospice, Exeter

Wednesday evening group from 5:30-7:00 at RVNA & Hospice, Exeter

We also offer a monthly drop-in Grief Support Group on the 3rd Monday of each month from 3:00-4:30pm at Epping Regional Health Center. These groups are free to the public, but registration is required. For more information and to register, please call Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Bereavement Services Coordinator, at 603-772-2981.



The Annual Church meeting is on Sunday, February 3rd. A light lunch will be served in the vestry prior to the meeting. All annual reports from boards and committees are due to the church office by Thursday, January 17th. I plan to have the annual report available on Sunday, January 27th.



We had 21 families for the Christmas baskets and Mitten Tree. There were 16 children and the fire dept took 12 of them. Also, Chester Academy took a Chester family and an Auburn family. The PJ Project came through again this year, supplying PJ's for each child. Wesley's Way Foundation donated most fixings for 18 stocking in memory of Wesley. Hygiene products were collected at the town hall.

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



Happy New Year! As a church we have a lot to be thankful for and also a lot that we are praying about. We have a lot of work ahead of us in 2019.

January's Deacon of the month is Paul Scott. Epiphany Sunday is January 6th. We also have Cabinet meeting on the 6th right after worship. Perhaps we can get a crew together to take down our church Christmas decorations sometime after Sunday's service and before Sunday, January 13th. We have said our final goodbyes to Mark Lutton, our music director and our choir will now be on hiatus until we can find a new music director. We will have Jean Gagnon and Mary Hamblett filling in for January only

and also some soloists but after that if we cannot find a new accompanist or music director we will need to revert to "canned" music. Not ideal. If you know anyone who is looking for a position, even interim, please have them contact the church office or committee members we will arrange to meet with them as soon as possible. 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 are in desperate need for prayer shawls and for people who can knit or crochet prayer shawls. The need is greater than the supply that we have. 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. At this time our supply is next to nothing so there may not be a prayer shawl available when you ask for one. As with any of our ministries, it takes people to be able to provide service to others.

The diaconate is seeking two members to replace Gen Rowell and Marge Pagliuca, both of whom have been serving on the diaconate for quite some time – well before Reverend Beverly retired. If you are interested in becoming a deacon please talk to one of the deacons, Marge Pagliuca or Pastor Linda as soon as possible.

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. 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



Briefing from the BORF

A Happy, Healthy, and Blessed 2019 to all!

2018 was a very busy (and very different) year for the BORF and we go into 2019 excited, well-informed, and possibly a bit anxious about the “Meetinghouse Rehabilitation” project that will be kicked off this year! During a special business meeting after Sunday service on December 2nd, Nate Rockwell presented the current status to date along with the recommendation from the BORF that we hire Dave and Pat Williams to help us complete a feasibility study to determine what we could expect to raise with a multi-year capital campaign. After much discussion and many thought provoking questions, we voted unanimously to spend the \$3500 for this study. The next step is for Dave and Pat Williams to conduct a series of Feasibility Study Interviews and we have planned these for Saturday and Sunday February 9th and 10th. Much more work is now needed and more communication will be forthcoming as we begin this process.

The key “take-away” we hope is apparent is the absolute necessity for everyone to become involved in some aspect of this undertaking! While the BORF has the responsibility to manage it, its success will require 100% participation from everyone who can help. Please continue to pray for this project and ask God to help each of us to determine what our role and contribution may be.

Budgetary planning for 2019 has started and will be completed in early January for presentation at the February Business meeting. Our very supportive congregation continues to provide what we need to continue sharing the word of God in our beautiful little town! Thanks to all who have pledged their support in 2019!

The BORF would like to thank all who have helped and contributed with all their gifts so graciously this past year and we look forward to a very interesting and busy 2019!

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.

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday Church Services: *10:00am Family Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*</p>		<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm BORF meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>11:00 Cabinet meeting</p>  <p>EPIPHANY</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm BORF meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>11:00am Deacons meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Annual Reports due to the church office</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9am to noon Food Pantry open in Vestry</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Church Services: *10:00am Family Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*					1	2  Groundhog Day
3 11am Annual Meeting 	4	5	6 6:30pm BORF meeting	7	8	9 All Day Feasibility Meetings
10 All Day Feasibility Meetings 11:00am Deacons meeting	11	12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15	16
17  Presidents Day	18	19	20	21	22	23 Prepared to Serve 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
24	25	26	27	28		



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