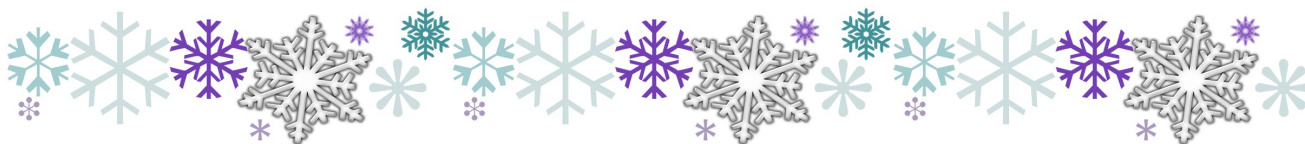




# Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

*Catch the Spirit*  
*January and February 2018*



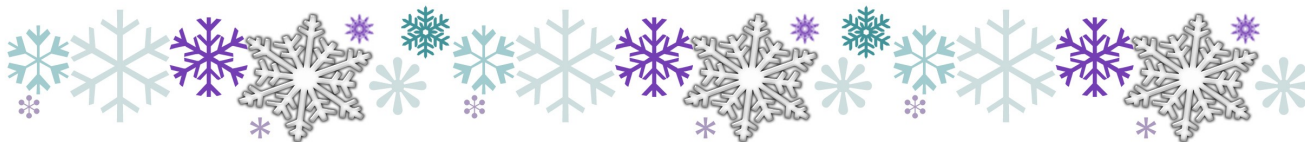
## *Upcoming Events*

**Epiphany**  
**Saturday, January 6th**

**Annual Reports Due**  
**Wednesday, January 17th**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 4th**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, February 14th**  
**Service at 6:30pm**



**Please join us every Sunday for Worship**  
**10:00am Family Worship and Children's Sunday School**  
**Communion is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month**

*Lines from Linda,*

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15 NRSV)*

This is the first verse in the passage from the Gospel of John where Jesus asks Simon Peter three times if he loves him. Simon Peter continues to reply that he loves Jesus and is even hurt when Jesus asks him a third time. Each time, though, Jesus gives Simon Peter a task. Simon Peter is to feed lambs, tend sheep, and feed sheep. These all belong to Jesus. In other words Simon Peter is to take care of the people.

We, too, are called to take care of the people. The Christmas celebrations are over and we stopped singing the carols until the next Christmas season. Although since I think we should still sing them, there will be a few carols in the January worship services. The decorations are put away or are on their way to being stored. Even though the trappings are put away, there is still a lot to be done in the name of Christ. We celebrated God's coming into the world in this child and now we, like Simon Peter, show our love for Jesus by doing.

With the cold New Hampshire winters, people still need clothing and shelter. The food pantries still need food. People are dealing with grief and loneliness and sickness. We still have issues of hate rather than love and compassion. We are called to share God's love by doing which involves feeding the hungry, taking care of those in need, healing those who are sick, comforting those who are grieving, being peacemakers, and the list continues.

Howard Thurman expressed it best in his poem, "Now the Work of Christmas Begins," which I read at the Christmas Eve service:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.*

God's love for us was shown by the birth of a child in a cave in Bethlehem. Even though the decorations are put away and celebrations are over, may we still do the work of God which was and is shown to us through Christ.

*Shalom,*

*Pastor Linda*



The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregational Baptist Church of Chester, New Hampshire will be held in the church sanctuary on Sunday, February 4th, 2018 immediately following the worship service, beginning with a light lunch.

The following shall be the order of business;

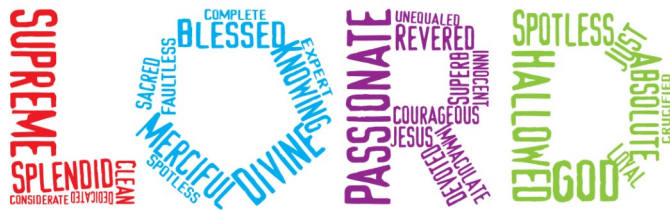
Reading of the Call of the Meeting  
Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting  
Reports of Boards and Officers  
Report of the Cabinet  
Unfinished Business  
Appropriations for Ensuing Year  
Election of Officers and Board Members  
Other New Business

Per order of the Clerk,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Rockwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn Rockwell, Clerk

## CALL ON HIS NAME



## BOARD MEETINGS

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

**BORF** – Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30pm

**CE** – Sunday, January 14th at noon

**Deacons** – Sunday, January 14th at noon

**Annual Meeting**—Sunday, February 4th

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

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

**Mel and Judy Balk**

**Bud Bethune**

**Forrest Brown**

**Valerie Cooper and family**, friends of Mel and Judy Balk

**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)

**Isaac**, Dick and Marion Hazelton's grandson

**Hayden Lane**

**Marianne Larimer**, friend of Mel and Judy Balk

**Janet MacGray**

**Avery and Linda Millsaps**, Cliff's brother and his wife

**Allan Poole**, Nate Rockwell's cousin

**Brenda Price**

**Barbara Rice**

**Elaine Storlazzi**, friend of Colleen Towle

**Colleen Towle**

**Dean Towlas**

**Barbara Tudor**, Cliff and Joanne Millsap's niece

**The people of Zimbabwe**

### For those who are in Nursing Homes...

**Forrest Brown**

**Evelyn Wise**



## Christmas in the Village

Thank you for all the help we received setting up, working, tearing down. We definitely had the most help ever. Thank you to Colleen Towle for pulling off an awesome Loaf and Ladle. Thank you to all who baked, crafted, shopped and to Phil and Sue Cassista for sharing their gifts of music to make the day most enjoyable.

We already have some new ideas for crafts and setup for 2018! We welcome your suggestions.

*Deb Field*

Here's what's  
happening!

# WORSHIP

BEGINS AT 10 AM

## Rockingham VNA & Hospice WINTER 2018 ~ SIX WEEK BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Afternoon: Mondays 1:00 to 2:30 pm

January 15<sup>th</sup> – February 26<sup>th</sup>

(no session on February 12<sup>th</sup>)

Location: Epping Regional Health Center  
212 Calef Highway (Route 125), Epping

Evening: Thursdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm

January 11<sup>th</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>

Location: RVNA & Hospice Office  
137 Epping Road, Exeter

Groups are free and open to the public. Minimum enrollment is 4 participants. Groups are limited to no more than 8 participants. To register, please call Molly Brewer at 772-2981.

*These six-week interactive support groups will explore the grieving process and provide an opportunity for those who are grieving to meet in a safe, supportive environment and share with others who are also grieving.*



The Annual church meeting is on Sunday, February 4th. 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 Wednesday, January 17th. I plan to have the annual report available on Sunday, January 28th.



**THE ABW MINISTRIES/VNH**  
**MID-WINTER GATHERING. JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Join with other women, both leaders and pioneers, to be energized and equipped to be a collaborative, innovative, and courageous woman for Christ.

Catch the vision for a Church that is willing to fling open the doors and step out into the streets. Respond to the Spirit's invitation to be a sign and foretaste of the kingdom of God in the midst of the everyday world all around us.

***LEADERSHIP IN A NEW MISSION ERA***

***FROM STEEPLE TO STREET***

***The Church is rediscovering its identity in mission.***

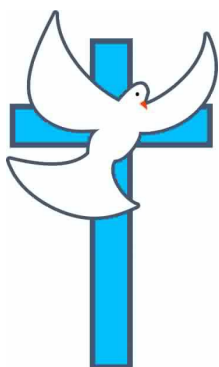
***New London Baptist Church, NH***

***Saturday, January 27th from 9:30am to 3:00pm***

***Lunch available for a \$5.00 donation.***

***Bring space in our brains for new ideas.***

***"Fresh Expressions" All are welcome!***



More and more churches are taking seriously the call to engage with their communities...and many more would like to. But this new mission landscape is going to need new skills of leadership. *Bold, risk-taking, creative, discerning leadership.* Women who will move to the mission edges and foster fresh expressions of church. Women who will take on the adaptive challenges within existing churches to catalyze new energy for missions. Women who will make room for experiments and risks for the sake of the gospel.

**If you would like to attend the Gathering or have any questions, please see Mary Hamblett.**



**Prepared to Serve  
2018**

*God's various gifts are handed out everywhere;  
but they all originate in God's Spirit.  
God's various ministries are carried out everywhere;  
but they all originate in God's Spirit.  
1 Corinthians 12:4-5 (MSG)*

**Save the Date:**

**February 24, 2018**

**Pembroke Academy**

**109 Academy Road**

**Pembroke, NH**



I'm starting early on my New Year's Resolutions to get my reports done early! It is the 15<sup>th</sup> of December as I write this article. By the time you read this the Christmas Cantata on December 17<sup>th</sup> will be a memory, as will our first 5:00pm Christmas Eve service with the choir.

**Church Worship Hours to change!** The diaconate would like to thank all the many people who responded to the survey regarding church hours. As a result, and in accordance with our By-Laws, the deacons are changing the church worship time to **10:00am year round** beginning on **January 7, 2018**. We have announced this in church every Sunday in December and it has been changed on our website and on our sign out in front of the church. It was also in last month's newsletter.

All sanctuary flowers are now being coordinated through the church office. Please check with Frances BEFORE bringing flowers for worship. For those of you who purchased poinsettias in memory of loved ones we ask that you please take them home after Epiphany Sunday which is January 7, 2018. Our Christmas decorations will be taken down after church that Sunday as well.

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 an awful lot of dark green.

Several Deacons were on the "sound committee" after several requests were made by congregation attendees to improve the quality of the audio in worship. This was done with due diligence but we simply do not have enough funds to proceed. As our congregation continues to age, and hearing problems increase we are likely to see an increase in the number of requests to improve our audio. There are other monetary priorities that the church must deal with at this point unless we receive a designated donation for sound. If you find you simply cannot hear the worship service, please talk to a member of the B.O.R.F.

Anyone interested in becoming new members are asked to speak to Pastor Linda directly. This is an informal process so why wait? We love having people join our warm and welcoming congregation. More hands, more hearts, more welcome, and more service.

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 2017 are Gen Rowell, Mary Hamblett, Deb Field, Marge Pagliuca and Paul Scott.*



## **Briefing from the BORF**

A Happy, Healthy, and Blessed 2018 to all!

The BORF is excited about our plans and projects as we go into a new year. We are making progress on the site evaluation of our Church building to present to the NH Preservation Alliance. We will be reviewing quotes from companies who are qualified to complete this task. We are interested, excited, and perhaps a little anxious about what will come out of this evaluation! We already know there are problems with leaking in the steeple, etc. What we hope to have is a complete roadmap for future planning on what will need to be done over the years to keep our beautiful historic building sound.

One large project that needs to be done this year is the painting of the Church building. We had a very good quote in hand, but the contractor has decided to move to Vermont. This will require we go back out to solicit quotes and that is already underway. The outside shutters are in very bad shape and will need attention.

Budgetary planning for 2018 will be completed in early January for presentation at the February Business meeting. On a very positive note, pledges this year have exceeded 2017 which only proves what we already know...that we are a generous and involved congregation of believers who want to continue spreading the word of God in our beautiful little town! Thanks to all who have pledged their support in 2018!

The BORF would like to thank all who have helped and contributed so graciously this past year and we look forward to a very interesting and busy 2018!

Respectfully submitted by the 2018 Board of Resources and Finance.

*The Board of Resources and Finance for 2017 consists of Nate Rockwell, Norman Field, Donna Foote, Jean Gagnon, Mark Munroe and Penny Henderson.*



## CABINET CORNER



There are some new brainstorming ideas coming down the pike (probably around March time) that might help us to direct our church and use our valuable resources of time and talents in a more efficient way. I urge EVERYONE involved in church to take part in the brainstorming session so that we are in agreement as to how we move forward. This will be an informal exchange of ideas. Remember no idea is too silly. Oftentimes the best and most productive procedures are formulated from silly ideas that people continue to build on until a viable solution is reached.

We have quite a few people coming off of boards this year! As we begin making strides for a more streamlined structure we hope that many of you coming off will agree to another term, or even just another **year** on your current board. The Cabinet, as a group, is serving as our nominating committee this year. Our current board of Missions will have no members as of February 4<sup>th</sup>!!! If anyone would like to fill that please let Pastor Linda, Joanne Millsaps or me know as soon as possible. The Offices of Moderator, Vice Moderator and Clerk have all agreed to a second term. We have a training Treasurer in the wings and we are going to lose a few deacons unless they agree to another term.

Did you know? ANYONE can attend a Cabinet meeting. We encourage anyone who wishes to attend to join in. This is not a select group to keep issues from the church membership! One member from each Board should attend and the meetings are quarterly. **Don't forget our Annual Meeting is on February 4, 2018.** I promise to keep it short like last year! Check the church bulletin for any changes.

~ Marge Pagliuca - Moderator



The Food Pantry had 24 families signed up for Christmas Baskets. The Chester Fire department took seven families from the mitten tree. That left few mittens left and with the regulars calling for the mittens, they were all taken before the fair. We did the PJ Project again, giving PJ's to every child. Thanks to generous donations, we received hats, fresh eggs, bags of chocolates and candy for each family. Thank you to all that helped!

### 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

**\*\*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 December Special Offering: The annual special offering for retired clergy was received. In accordance with our long-standing church policy, the amount received was divided in half, and half was sent to the A.B.C. and half to the U.C.C. Both denominations use it to send gifts to clergy who are retired in gratitude for their years of service, and to help with expenses that their limited retirement income often doesn't cover.

Our Zimbabwe Partnership: We learned that there had been a military take-over of the government in Zimbabwe. President Mugabe had resigned and the Vice-President whom he had recently fired, (who had fled the country), had returned to assume the presidency. It was reported that things were very tense, but calm, as the country transitioned to new leadership that they hoped would bring relief from the often brutal dictatorship of President Mugabe, and also help the devastated economy so there would be greater access to the necessities of life. A small delegation from one N.H. church had planned a trip to Zimbabwe in December, and they were assured that conditions were stable enough so they could still go. In response to their request, we sent a large manila envelope with a Christmas card signed by many who were in church one Sunday, along with a letter, photos of Christmas in New Hampshire and four mini Christmas decoration gifts with a Christian theme. This envelope was to be hand-delivered to our partner church in Chipinge. We also learned that a Delegation from Zimbabwe will be coming to N.H. next October to stay for about a week. All churches in a Ukama partnership with a church in Zimbabwe have been asked to consider hosting a representative from their partner church. This will require funding expenses related to the trip, providing a place to stay and meals here in Chester, including them in our church life and also inviting them to tell us about their home and church life, and escorting them to local points of interest.

At The December Cabinet Meeting: At this meeting the Board of Missions shared their thoughts that, with funds that are available in the Mission account, it would be good to send a gift in 2017 to help with the long relief effort that will continue to be needed in Puerto Rico because of hurricane damage that has left many still without power and water. The Cabinet agreed, and it was also decided that it would be appropriate to send the gift through the special Puerto Rico mission aid program that the American Baptists have initiated and are leading. In accordance with this, a gift of \$500.00 was sent after the Cabinet meeting for this critical Mission effort. The Cabinet was also interested in the possibility that our church might host a Delegate from Zimbabwe in Oct. 2018. It was agreed that the Board of Missions, with the Board of Christian Education, would look into this further to determine the resource people that will be needed to do this and what fund-raising might be needed.

*The Board of Missions for 2017 are Cliff and Joanne Millsaps.*



# The View from the Bench

## That Christmas Record

In 1948 Columbia Records introduced the long-playing record. No longer would you have to get up every three minutes to change the record or put a stack of heavy 78's on the record changer. An LP plays for 20 to 30 minutes per side, making it very good for background music.

Sometime in 1949 or the early 1950's, you or your parents or your grandparents bought a new LP record player. Shortly after that, you bought a Christmas LP, but only one, because an LP cost 3 or 4 dollars, the equivalent of \$30 or \$40 today. Nowadays you just say "Alexa, play Christmas music" and you get an endless stream of songs, different every time. But back then, Mom would say "Let's put on that Christmas record" or "the Christmas record" or "our Christmas record," because for years and years it was the only one you had. You would play it while you decorated the tree, or wrapped presents, or opened presents, or ate Christmas dinner. Always the same record, the one and only. As soon as the you heard the first notes of the first song on Side 1 you knew that Christmas was really here!

In my family it was "Christmas with Arthur Godfrey and All the Little Godfreys". Side one was all Santa songs and side two was all Jesus songs. The cover had a black-and-white picture of Arthur Godfrey wearing a red-and-white Santa Claus cap, with pictures of the other artists including The McGuire Sisters and Julius LaRosa. What was your Christmas album? Maybe you had Andy Williams, or Elvis, or Mitch Miller, or Lawrence Welk.

Then one day you were looking for snow tires at the tire store, and there by the registers was a new Christmas record for only a dollar! "The Great Songs of Christmas" at Goodyear, or "Your Favorite Christmas" at Firestone, or "For a Musical Merry Christmas" at B.F. Goodrich. Anyone can afford a dollar. So you bought it. Now you had TWO Christmas records. If not a tire company, you bought a record from Kresge or True Value Hardware Stores or Reader's Digest or Hallmark.

Your favorite artists released Christmas records. Johnny Mathis, Glen Campbell, Barbra Streisand, Kenny Rogers, Leonard Bernstein, the Metropolitan Opera, Alvin and the Chipmunks, John Denver and the Muppets.

For many of us, though, there is one Christmas record that stands out among all the others: "Merry Christmas" by Bing Crosby. Originally released as a 78-rpm album in 1945, it was re-released as a 10-inch LP in 1949, and with four additional songs as a 12-inch LP in 1955. It has also been released on 45-rpm, compact cassette, eight-track tape, CD, and on iTunes, Spotify and other services. As far as I know, it has never been out of print in the last 72 years.

*Mark Lutton, Music Director*

# Chester Congregational Baptist Church

## January 2018

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

# Chester Congregational Baptist Church

## February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Church Services:</b> *10m Family Worship and Sunday School *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*				1 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3
4 	5	6	7	8 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 	12	13	14 6:30pm Ash Wednesday service 	15 7pm Choir Rehearsal 	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 All Day Prepared to Serve 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
25	26	27	28			





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

**Worship Service and Sunday School**

**Family Worship      10:00 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**

<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**

<b>Parsonage Phone:</b>	603-887-4792
<b>Pastor Email:</b>	chesternhpastor@mygsc.com
<b>Office Phone:</b>	603-887-4799
<b>Office Email:</b>	chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net
<b>Church Website:</b>	<a href="http://chesternhchurch.org">chesternhchurch.org</a>