



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit
July & August, 2018



Upcoming Events

Congregational Gathering in the Vestry
Sunday, July 15th at 11am

Summer Worship
Worship begins at 9:30am for the month of August

August 5th and 12th

Family Worship at Chester Congregational Baptist Church with Pastor Ruth Gallot leading the services (August 5th is Communion Sunday).

August 19th & 26th

Family Worship at Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC in Auburn with Pastor Linda Rackliffe leading the services.

Chester Town Fair
Saturday, September 8th



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

Lines from Linda

So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up. (Hebrews 12:1-3 CEB)

This passage from Hebrews reminds us of the need to persevere, to keep going in the midst of difficulties. For those of us who pay attention to races such as the Boston Marathon or the Wason Pond Pounder, we know or watch people who are in these races. Whether it be Heartbreak Hill or going through the cold water at the beginning of May, it takes strength and courage as well as encouragement to continue despite pain and adversity. The writer of this passage writes of those who went before us who are supporting us. The writer tells of the need to get rid of the baggage that trips us up, as well as to fix our eyes on Jesus in order to continue to run the race.

Why is this important to us as a church today? At a congregational meeting on June 10th, the Board of Resources and Finances gave the Conditions and Assessment Report about the church building and the repairs that are needed from Preservation Timber Framing Inc.. In many ways it was discouraging due to the expenses of the work that is needed. On that same day we had the 3rd of 4 meetings to discuss what God is calling us to do as a church.

Putting these two events together was overwhelming. How do we find ways to preserve this building and do ministry at the same time? Where will we find the expertise, energy, and people power in this size church? I am glad that no decisions were made and questions are being asked. We will need to take time to work together to figure this out. This is where focusing on Jesus comes into play. If fix our eyes on Jesus and run, or even walk, one step at a time we can make forward progress through what appears to be an insurmountable task. When we put Jesus at the forefront of our decisions and actions then we can listen to each other, respect each person's opinions, and develop strategies in order to be the hands and feet of Jesus here in Chester. It will not be easy and will take time, but we can persevere.

There are things happening in the church this summer. Many enjoyed our outdoor worship service and ice cream social held on June 24. While most of the congregation could not see the bicyclist riding by whose eyes were on us and not the road, I watched him check us out. Another outdoor service is planned for the 2nd Sunday in September.

We should celebrate the work done on the garden. Vegetables and flowers are growing, being watered and picked. The fence around the garden is completed. Several people contribute to the success of this.

The June Jubilee was a time of hard work, but there was also fellowship. It takes an enormous amount of time and effort so we wonder if it was worth it. Yet between working together, compliments on the food and people finding things at the yard sale, it was a success.

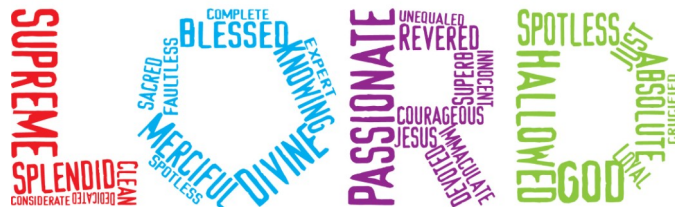
We will gather on July 15th after church to bring together all our discussions about who we are. This time we will explore steps we will begin to take in order to answer God's calling.

This is a reminder. For the month of August worship will have a different structure. For the first two weeks of August the Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC will join us at **9:30 am** at the church in Chester with the Rev. Ruth Gallot .preaching. For the last two weeks of August the two churches will meet at **9:30am** at the Longmeadow church and I will preach. It will be a great time for the two congregations to worship God together.

Have a great summer and remember that the church is still active through the summer months.

Shalom, Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, August 8th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Meet as needed



August



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship begins at 9:30am for the month of August

August 5th and 12th

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August 19th & 26th

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

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

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Bree Coward, Nate and Lynn Rockwell's niece

Bill Curtin

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Alex Ferron

Chip Frost

Mary Hamblett

Steve Hebert

Bob Henderson

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

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

Dean Towlas

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

The people of Zimbabwe

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Evelyn Wise

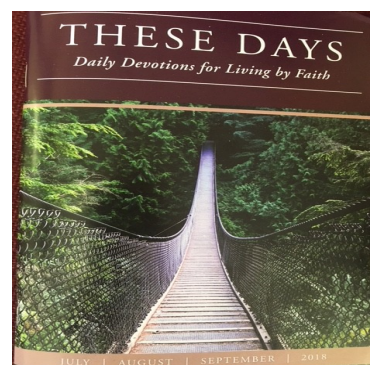
Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of...

Carol Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's mother, who died May 3rd

Truman "Scotty" Britton who died on May 15th

John Chiaradonna who passed away on June 9th

Valerie Cooper, friend of Mel and Judy Balk, who died June 21st



The July-August-September issue of ***These Days*** Devotional is now available. You can pick up your **free** copy in the Narthex.

Here's what's happening!



**Congregational Gathering
Sunday, July 15th at 11am in the Vestry**

**Thanks to everyone for their generous
contributions to the June Jubilee:**

Ace/Ben Franklin Hardware, Raymond
Bittersweet Blessings, Chester ~ Busche Academy
Cashmere Gardens, Chester ~ Phil & Sue Cassista
Center Scoop Ice Cream, Chester
Chester General Store, Chester
Dillon Old Farm, Chester ~ Dunkin Donuts, Derry
Folsom's Sugar House, Chester ~ G & P Pizza, Chester
Gordo's Burritos and Tacos, Raymond
Lady Slipper Creations, Chester ~ Mr. Steer, Londonderry
Olde Post Restaurant ~ Panera Bread, Derry
Shaw's, Derry ~ Colleen Towle ~ Walmart, Derry
And ALL of our wonderful volunteers!



Please check out our Facebook page for updates and pictures! Note that our official Facebook page is Chester Congregational Baptist Church.

Click on the Facebook logo on the left to go directly to our page.



Deacon's Dialogue

Hearts seem lighter, relaxation is setting in and many of us have plans for vacations, projects, sleeping in a little later, gardening and just simply enjoying the world around us. For me, I so enjoy my coffee on the porch in the mornings and relaxing on the patio in the late afternoons – if I'm not hopping off to tennis, karate or yoga! As I mentioned last month the deacons have no plan to meet formally until sometime in August as we prepare for our coming together as a church family once more. The deacons will stay in communication through email, phone and brief "touch base" meetings after worship during the summer. Please, if you have any concerns feel free to

contact the deacon of the month or the church office. The deacons would like to wish fellow deacon Mary Hamblett a speedy recovery from knee surgery!

The deacons would like to remind all of our members to post your comments and photos of church activities to our Facebook page. There are several Facebook pages out there that are not administered and are not affiliated with our church yet our members are posting to them. Please be sure you are posting to Chester Congregational Baptist Church on Facebook. You might get a little message that says your post has to be approved by an administrator. If so Frances Kenison (church office), Mark Lutton (church organist) and I (moderator and deacon) will approve it right away.

While many of us are enjoying a summer break remember that it might be a good time to begin a prayer shawl. 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.

Special music is the order of the day for the summer months as the choir has the summer off. If you, or someone you know, would like to provide special music please see Mark Lutton after worship any Sunday. He can use vocal solos, duets or instrumentals in place of the anthem in the service.

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.

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

It has been a very busy and interesting late spring/early summer for the BORF, and it doesn't look like we will be doing much relaxing this summer!

On Sunday June 10th after worship service, Jean Gagnon presented the "Preservation Objectives" from the Conditions Assessment received from Preservation Timber Framing. The main initiative was to give the congregation information on the projected cost estimate of \$416,975 for rehabilitation identified as being necessary to preserve our Church building. The most expensive part of this is work that needs to be done on the belfry and tower box. With a Capital fund of approximately \$40,000, we obviously were not in a position to apply for an LCHIP grant for 2018 as we must be able to prove that we can support half of this cost. The BORF has scheduled a meeting to further discuss this with Aaron Sturgis from PTF and to ask more questions and determine if there is a path forward that would allow us a more cost effective way to attack this issue! It needs to be understood that this may be a multi-year, church wide effort that goes beyond the BORF alone! More information will be shared as we try to get possible options. Solutions, plans, committees, etc. will need to be decided by the church body as a whole.

The Church vegetable and flower garden is planted and thriving! We are finding it much easier to work with the stone dust paths instead of wading through grass and weeds! The garden looks quite beautiful and we are getting a lot of positive comments. Many thanks to Herb Rowell for building the beautiful fence surrounding it! Our hope is that this not only feeds many people healthy veggies, but brings us out into the community as a kind group of caring neighbors! Thanks again for all who have contributed financially and with "sweat equity"!

Have a great summer, eat some healthy veggies, be sure to read the conditions assessment report (links are on the Church website at www.chesternhchurch.org), attend any information meeting called by the BORF, and be ready to "think out of the box". Pray that God reveals what His intentions are for us, individually and corporately, as we begin the journey of keeping our beautiful gem preserved for future generations!

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 photo from our outdoor worship service
on Sunday, June 24th**



Summer is here!! Please remember that there are no school lunches for the children.

We can use the following items for the summer:

**Canned Pasta
Peanut Butter**

**Canned Fruit
Jelly**

**Cereal
Canned Tuna**

Current Food Pantry needs:

Powdered drink mixes

Oatmeal

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



MEETING OF NEW 'COMBO' GROUP

Because of few members and shifting responsibilities, *the Board of Missions & The Board of Christian Education and Family Life* have been combined to help each other. We have had two 'combination' meetings now, one with Pastor Linda and one on June 19th.

At our June meeting we first focused on going over the rest of our preparations for the 'Ice Cream Social' that was held on June 24 after a wonderful outdoor worship service! The weather cooperated as it didn't rain until much later, while the cloud cover protected us from any hot sun. It seemed so appropriate for the Pastor to lead us in prayers that included all of God's creation while we were actually worshipping outdoors! We also enjoyed Mark's playing the keyboard

from the back door of the Vestry for the Hymn Sing! When we suggested the Ice Cream Social, we continued the tradition of the Board of Ch. Ed. which hosted a large family event after the 'Children's Sunday' service each year, but the Ice Cream Social was a smaller event that 'fit' the present demographics of our church better. Who knows, maybe this new 'combined group' will be big enough in future years to plan a bigger outdoor event as before, and then add an 'Ice Cream Social' on to it?



We then reviewed requests for support that we had received from agencies and mission projects that provide a critical service to groups that are especially vulnerable, and decided to send a donation to two in N.H. The first was to support the summer mission of *the Salvation Army* to provide meals to children who have depended on free school lunch programs but lose those in the summer. The second was to send a donation to the *N.H. Conference, UCC*, specifically dedicated to a revolving bond fund that has been set up by their *Mission group for Immigrant and Refugee Support* to be used to post bond for immigrants & refugees being held in jail pending a hearing, so that they will be able to better prepare for the hearing, and be able to care for their families. Our neighbor UCC church in Madbury, N.H. has many Indonesian members who were given asylum many years ago, have complied faithfully with all ICE requirements and are employed and active members of the church and community but are now facing arrest and detention. When such a person attends his/her hearing, then the amount of the bond is returned and will be put back into the Revolving Bond Fund to help someone else.

We also talked a little bit about this newly formed, informal partnership of our two boards, and found two areas that overlap. One is Christian Education for adults which is part of what the board of Christian Education tries to offer, not just Sunday School, and providing education about different areas of mission is part of the Mission Board's 'role description'. We looked through some materials that Joanne had that might be of interest and will think more about this, with Pastor Linda's guidance. The other area that overlaps is that of family focused activities that the Board of Christian Ed. & Family Life has offered (remember regular movies?) in an effort to invite & welcome both children and adults in the greater community, while for our Mission Board, there is also a greater focus on local outreach. However, in both these areas we ask for input from everyone, because we need creative ideas!

The Missions/Christian Education Group for 2018—Joanne Millsaps, Lannie Crowley, Linda Noyes and Colleen Towle.

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

July, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 11am Cong. Mtg.  Congregational Gathering	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
29	30	31	<div>Sunday Church Services: *10:00am Family Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*</div>			

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

August, 2018

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	3	4
5 9:30am church service in Chester, Pastor Ruth preaching	6	7	8 6:30pm BORF meeting	9	10	11
12 9:30am church service in Chester, Pastor Ruth preaching	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am church service in Auburn, Pastor Linda preaching	20	21	22	23	24	25 9am to noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
26 9:30am church service in Auburn, Pastor Linda preaching	27	28	29	30	31	



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

Worship Service

Family Worship 10 am

Communion is received the first Sunday of every month

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

Parsonage Phone: 603-887-4792
Pastor Email: chesternhpastor@mygsc.com
Music Director Email: chestermusic@marklutton.com
Office Phone: 603-887-4799
Office Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net
Church Website: chesternhchurch.org