

# Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit June, 2018

**Upcoming Events** 

June Jubilee
Saturday, June 2nd 9am—2pm

Special Church Meeting & Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 10th at 11am

Father's Day
Sunday, June 17th

Outdoor Service & Ice Cream Social Sunday, June 24th



 $\frac{Please\ join\ us\ every\ Sunday\ for\ Worship}{10:00am\ Family\ Worship\ and\ Children's\ Sunday\ School}$  Communion is the  $1^{st}$  Sunday of every month

## lines from linda,

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!. (Psalm 95:6-7 NRSV)

It is hard to believe that the summer season is upon us. While many students are still taking tests and there are a few more weeks of school, the colleges and universities held or are holding their graduations. The last weekend of May is usually considered the unofficial beginning of summer. Perhaps for the church after the June Jubilee, we are ready to take a break after a busy winter and spring.

During the summer we do tend to take breaks from our regular routine, as it is a time of recreation and leisure. We spend time enjoying different activities, especially those that are outdoors. In the church we still gather for worship, but we tend to wind down from some of the regular routines.

Yet in our enjoyment of differing activities, we often work just as hard as we would normally. At times our recreational activities run at the same or even harder pace as our regular activities and we do not take time for our spiritual lives. It is easy to be so caught up in our work and recreation and trying to fill the longer daylight hours, that our relationship with God often suffers.

This summer we will have a least one special congregational meeting as well as some different worship services.

On June 10 there will be a congregational meeting after worship to hear from the Board of Resources and Finances about their work with the Preservation Timber Framing Inc. in creating a Conditions and Assessment Report about the church building and the repairs that are needed.

Right after that meeting there will be lunch and continued discussion regarding who we are and what God is calling us to do as a church. Hopefully we can work on the conclusions from these gatherings over the summer and be ready for fall. Yes, it will be a busy day, but it is hard to get people together once school is out and summer is in full swing.

Later in the month on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, we will try something slightly different for worship. We will gather outdoors for a hymn sing and then enjoy an ice cream social. It will be a relaxed time, but it will still be a time of worship.

Just to look ahead this summer, 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.

Summer may be a time of recreation and outdoor activities, but God does not take the summer off. Even with all that we do this summer may we continue to worship so our relationship with God and Christ will continue to grow and deepen.

Shalom, Pastor Línda

#### CHESTER CONGREGATONAL 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, June 10, 2018 immediately following the 10:00am Worship Service.

The following shall be the order of business:

The BORF will present the results of the Conditions and Assessment Report we have received from Preservation Timber Framing Inc. Possible options for dealing with the high cost of repairs to the church will be discussed.

Election of new board members.

To consider any other business that may be presented.

Per order of the Clerk,

Tyun Pockwell

Lynn Rockwell, Clerk

# CALL ON HIS NAME



**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** 

**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

Sally St. Clair

**Dean Towlas** 

Ruth Verrocchi, Joanne Millsap's sister

The people of Zimbabwe

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

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

**Wesley Belisle**, the NH boy who was swept out to sea in NC

**Carol Corwin,** Lynn Rockwell's mother, who died May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Truman "Scotty" Britton** who died on May 15<sup>th</sup>



## **Upcoming Board Meetings:**

**BORF** – Wednesday, June 6th at 6:30pm

**Deacons** – TBD

Special Church Meeting and

<u>Congregational Meeting</u>—Sunday, June 10th at 11am



Congratulations to Mel and Judy Balk as they celebrate 50 years of marriage on June 8th!





Father's Day is Sunday June 17th



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## Fresh Expressions Workshop Saturday, June 9th ~ 9am—3pm First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street, New London, NH

This last year, ABCVNH engaged in a partnership with Fresh Expressions USA to discover new missional ways to engage our culture and society with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This was a new adventure for our region and to date over 200 people have participated in Fresh Expressions events via this partnership. Numerous church leaders have been affirmed in their current ministries. Others have been motivated to engage in Fresh Expressions of evangelism, discipleship and Christian community. ABCVNH's partnership with Fresh Expressions is having an impact on our ministries. In many ways, this partnership has acted as a catalyst for a new understanding of church, community and mission.

"Kearsarge Vision Day" is on June 9 at First Baptist Church in New London NH. This event will follow the same format as those we have held in Concord NH and Middlebury VT. Pastors are encouraged to attend both events with their church leadership.

We are inspired to see so many harvesting from the ABCVNH partnership with Fresh Expressions and are ready to offer a "high commitment" opportunity, for those who feel led, to join a Fresh Expressions Learning Community. This Learning Community is for pastors and church leaders who wish to initiate a Fresh Expression of mission and ministry within an existing congregation, or begin a new Fresh Expression of mission and Christian community. This Learning Community is a nine-month commitment beginning with a two-day retreat on Sept. 8 and 9 at Rolling Hills Conference Center in Andover MA. During the course of the Learning Community, participants will receive mentoring, coaching and support in the nurturing of Fresh Expressions. After the retreat, participants will work together via computer conferencing. The nine-month Learning Community will conclude with another retreat.

Please see Pastor Linda if you are interested in attending this workshop.





## June Jubilee! Saturday, June 2nd

This is a rain or shine fundraiser for the Church! Come shop for treasures at the yard sale, find delicious treats at the bake sale, enter to win gift certificates from local businesses in our raffle and enjoy a wonderful BBQ meal.

We need volunteers! A sign-up sheet will be available in Church.

<u>Donations for the yard sale!</u> Donations are needed for the yard sale so please consider donating your treasures. We are looking for items that are in good condition and clean (no junk please!). We do not accept any clothing, TV's or electronics for this sale.

Donations will be accepted the week of May 27th Please contact the Church office at 887-4799 if you have any questions.

## JUNE JUBILEE

## Saturday, June 2nd ∼ 9am to 2pm

\* BBQ \* Yard Sale \* Bake Sale \* Raffle \*

BBQ served 11am to 2pm and includes choice of chicken, hamburger, hot dog along with sides and a beverage.

Cost is \$12 for chicken, \$10 for hamburger or hot dog, and \$5 for a kid's meal.

~ All proceeds benefit the Church ~

Chester Congregational Baptist Church
4 Chester Street, Chester, NH
www.chesternhchurch.org



## Outdoor Service and Ice Cream Social Sunday, June 24th at 10am

Please bring your own chairs and dress is casual for this Sunday.

An Ice Cream Social follows the service.



# 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 5<sup>th</sup> is Communion Sunday).

## August 19th & 26th

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



The warmer weather is finally gracing our forecasts. Summer is right around the corner. The community garden is being prepared and many treasures are awaiting the June Jubilee on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. In keeping with our desire to move away from having meetings for the sake of having meetings the deacons have decided to forego any formal meetings until August when we prepare for homecoming Sunday. 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.

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 been dwindling and people are on vacation. If you, or someone you know, would like to provide special music please see Mark Lutton after worship any Sunday. June 24<sup>th</sup> will be a "hymn sing" Sunday so dig out those old favorites so that we can sing a verse during worship.

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 these 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.

### Chester Congregational Baptist Church Newsletter



In our mission group we talked about how to reach out to our community in more helpful ways, and in our 'Congregational Conversations' we have talked about what we are being called to do to best serve God with our talents and resources. In a recent sermon, Pastor Linda referred to the story of the fishermen who became disciples by leaving their work and their families to follow Jesus. It was such a total, huge step to take that it's hard to even conceive of responding in such a way. But Pastor Linda suggested that we think instead about simply trying to step outside our 'comfort zone' a little. Perhaps not stepping out so much in a physical way as being willing to think about needs that may make us feel a little uncomfortable but

are causing deep pain to many of our families and neighbors, near and far.

This reaching out beyond our comfort zone came up recently when we heard of an opportunity for interested persons in local churches to attend an educational day being offered at the UCC Conference Office on the topic of Opioid addiction. It was being presented by a new 'working group' within the *Justice and Witness Ministry*, and we passed the news on in a 'mission moment' during Worship so that anyone who had a special interest in this, who might be able to attend, would know about it. One person wanted very much to attend but wasn't able to get the time off at work. Another came up after worship to exclaim about how shocked and happy she was to hear about this at church. She said it was the first time she had ever heard the problem mentioned in a worship service. Several spoke about how the problem has affected their family or a family they know.

Rev. Sandra Pontoh, the Pastor of the Maranatha Indonesian United Church of Christ in nearby Madbury, is being honored this month by the ACLU for the years she has spent advocating for, and providing pastoral support to, those in her church who were granted asylum here years ago because of religious persecution in their home country. Now they are threatened with deportation that will split their families, in spite of having lived and worked in the community for so long and having faithfully followed all the instructions of the immigration officials over the years. In response to this problem that is devastating to the families and to the congregation, the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group and the Justice and Witness Ministry of The N.H. Conference are requesting donations to go to a revolving bond fund that will allow those being held indefinitely in the Strafford jail to be released to their families and get the help they need to build a stronger defense in Immigration Court. Rev. Pontoh or members of the Refugee Support Group accompany immigrants to hearings, and, also in response to this, many from local churches are volunteering to accompany them as well. Their guide is the scripture, "I was in prison and you visited me." An Immigrant Rights Day was held very recently also that members of many different denominations in N.H. attended.

Two other educational events were also held recently about needs that may be a little outside our 'comfort zone'. One was a Webinar on how local churches can provide the structure needed to receive past offenders back into the church. The other was one offered by the ABC of Vt./N.H. about the constant struggle that families (especially children) are having who have family members who are incarcerated. Mary Hamblett attended this one. Learning more about such needs can help us find ways to respond that offer understanding and support, and also let us pass on the **Hope** that comes from Jesus for every kind of person everywhere.

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



The BORF has reviewed and finalized the "Preservation Objectives" from the Conditions Assessment received from Preservation Timber Framing. An informational meeting has been set for June 10<sup>th</sup> after worship so please attend if possible as this will be a very important communication session on what will need to be done to preserve and rehabilitate our Church building.

As everyone can see...the vegetable garden is nearing completion with stone dust paths, new beds filled with beautiful flowers, and the start of a wooden fence to surround the area! Planting will be complete by June 1<sup>st</sup> and we are so happy with the support and

help received to allow us to continue this outreach to our town, Food Pantry, and congregation! Special thanks to those who helped move stone dust, dig fence posts, plant, and provide financial support!

The new sound system is fully installed and complete! We are pleased with the results and enhancement of the audio portion of our worship service! Thanks again to all who helped make this happen!

There are still many projects that need to be done as outlined in last month's newsletter. If you would like to take on a project...or suggest one, please see a member of the BORF. As always, we would like to thank all who continue to help us with whatever is necessary to keep our buildings and grounds in shape!

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.





## **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

# Chester Congregational Baptist Church June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Church Services: *10m Family Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*					1	9am-2pm June Jubilee!
3	4	5	6	7 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Fresh Expressions
10 11am Special meeting followed by the Congregational meeting	11	12	13	7pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
FA HERS	18	19	20	SUMMER BEGINS	22	9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
24 10am Outdoor Service and Ice Cream Social	25	26	27	28	29	30



## 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\*\*

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

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