



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

March, 2019

Upcoming Events

Transfiguration Sunday

March 3rd

Ash Wednesday

March 6th ~ Service is at Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC at 7pm

Special Church Meeting

Sunday, March 10th at 11am

Daylight Saving Time begins

Sunday, March 10th ~ turn clocks ahead one hour

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Saturday, March 16th ~ 5-7pm ~ Vestry

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Sunday, March 31st



Please join us every Sunday for Worship at 10:00am

Communion is the 1st Sunday of every month

Lines from Linda,

“Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn’t fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn’t put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed.” (Matthew 7:24-27 CEB)

These are the last words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. The writer of Matthew devotes 2 chapters of these teachings to Jesus' disciples and others. Actually the others were probably eavesdropping on the teachings. Jesus calls on people hear the words but then to act on them. We must act upon what we hear. It is not enough to simply hear Jesus, but we must put into practice what we hear. We must do. We are called to carry out, to continue the ministry of Jesus. Some of that includes: paying attention to Jesus, trusting in God, doing to the least of these, paying attention to how we deal with others, praying, and the list continues.

On Ash Wednesday, March 6, we will enter the season of Lent with an evening service at the Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC. Lent is considered a devotional time as the 40 days are similar to the time when Jesus went to the mountain or wilderness by himself for forty days and forty nights. On March 10 the sermon will be based on Luke's description of that time in Jesus' life.

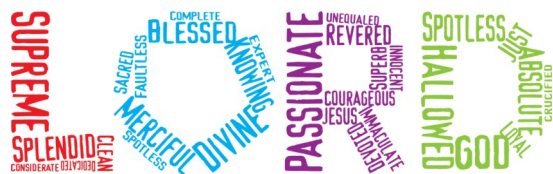
During this time we should take extra time to listen to what Jesus says to each one of us. This can be done through prayer as individuals and with others. It can happen through the reading of devotionals and the listening to music. We can listen to Jesus in our conversations with others as we see them as children of God. We can hear Jesus simply by taking time to listen in a quiet setting. Jesus speaks to us in many ways. The difficulty is in discerning what Jesus is saying to us, but the more we listen, the more we will hear.

As we take this time during Lent to listen, may we then put into practice what we hear. May we use our gifts and talents and skills to follow Jesus' teachings. May we find ways to do the work of Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Sunday, March 3rd at noon

Deacons – Sunday, March 10th at noon



Lillian Arthur

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

Carol Baker, Kim Cremin's mother

JB

Abby Collins, Jane Collins' granddaughter (Jane is Marge Pagliuca's sister)

Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's step father

Bill Curtin

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Alex Ferron

Phil Fontaine, friend of Donna Foote and Jean Gagnon

Jamie Hamblett, Mary's nephew

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Keith, Mel and Judy Balk's nephew

Rhonda List

Janet MacGray

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family members

Cliff Millsaps

George Noyes

Marge Pagliuca

Shirley Pike

Brenda Price

Barbara Rice

Herb Rowell

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

Bill Veazey, Lynn Rockwell's father

The people of Zimbabwe

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Janet MacGray

Barbara Rice

Evelyn Wise

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

Jack Arnold, Sandy and Hilary Hall's uncle (Lois Lee Hall's brother), who passed away on January 26th

Barbara Dolloff who passed away on February 10th



Congratulations to Randy Moquin and Wendy Arthur! They got married on February 2nd in Jackson, NH with all their children and grandchildren there! Best wishes!!



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!



Ash Wednesday Service

March 6th ~ 7:00pm

This year the Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC in Auburn will host the Ash Wednesday the service at 7pm.

All are welcome!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner *Saturday, March 16th 5-7pm*

Chester Congregational Baptist Church Vestry
4 Chester Street, Chester

Please join us for a delicious corned beef dinner!

Cost is \$13 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, payable at the door.
All proceeds will benefit the Church.

Contact the church office for more information:

Phone: 887-4799

Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

Website: chesternhchurch.org



There will a gift basket raffle at the dinner. Tickets are \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

We are looking for **volunteers and food donations** for the St. Patrick's day dinner. A sign-up sheet will be available in church beginning this Sunday, February 24th. You can help with set-up and clean-up, or you can make a donation of baked goods such as cookies or bars.

Again this year, we will have a **raffle** at the dinner. If you would like to make a donation of a themed gift basket (or other item), please contact the church office.

Please invite your family and friends to this fun dinner! Phil and Sue Cassista will be providing musical entertainment. All are welcome!



There will be a Special Meeting of the Chester Congregational Baptist Church on Sunday, March 10th, 2019 immediately following worship. The following shall be the order of business:

- 1) Election of new Board Members that have agreed to serve since the Annual Meeting on Feb. 3rd, 2019.
- 2) A discussion about the results of the Feasibility Study conducted by Rev. Dave and Pat Williams on Feb. 9th and 10th, 2019.
- 3) To vote as a church to initiate and participate in a Capital Campaign to raise the funds necessary to restore our church building.
- 4) To vote to authorize the BORF to spend up to \$16,000 to hire an outside consultant to guide us through our Capital Campaign.

Per Order of the Clerk,


Lynn Rockwell



Daylight Saving Time Begins

Turn clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10th



One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of sharing Offering will be taken on Sunday, March 31st.
Check the Sunday bulletins for more information.



Christmas in the Village Saturday, December 7th

We are in need of hats and scarves. We donated all that was left to the homeless through the Manchester Vineyard Church, so we currently have no inventory. Yarn and patterns are available. See Deb Field, or email debfield@gsinet.net.



So far this is the year of transitions; we thank Gen Rowell and Marge Pagliuca for their many years of serving on the Board of Deacons with their whole hearts. If you are interested in becoming a deacon please speak to one of the deacons or Pastor Linda. We need you!

March's Deacon of the month is Mary Hamblett. Ash Wednesday is March 6th; service to be held at Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC in Auburn at 7pm. We are still looking for a music director. 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. We are grateful to Jean Gagnon and Mary Hamblett for filling in. 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.

Many have stepped forward in the prayer shawl ministry! Thank you! Some are learning to crochet and knit, whatever your skill is, the finished shawls are truly appreciated. "We thank you for the shawl and the prayer shawl ministry that brings so many blessings to so many," reads the latest thank you note. Yarn is available if you want to give it a try. We just ask you make sure the shawl can go around shoulders, so about 6 feet long and 26 inches wide. See Deb Field for instruction and supplies.

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 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.

Please pray hard for a new music director and new deacons to come join us.

The Deacons for 2019 are Deb Field, Mary Hamblett, and Paul Scott.



Briefing from the BORF

As we begin our new term as the Board of Resources and Finance, we welcome Fran Bechtold as our newest member! This gives us a FULL board for the first time in several years. Fran will be formally voted in as a BORF member at the next scheduled Church meeting but has already been getting up to speed on what will certainly be a very active year!

2019 has predictably begun as a busy and focused year for the BORF and the entire congregation! We all go forward into 2019 with the very large and important Meeting House Preservation Project which is starting to become more defined. On Saturday and Sunday, February 9th and 10th, the Rev David and Patricia Williams conducted Feasibility Study interviews which will help us determine what we could anticipate raising with a multi-year capital campaign. We are expecting to have the results presented to us by the end of the month. This information will initially be reviewed by the BORF and other Church leaders and will then be shared with the congregation at a formal business meeting. At that time we plan to be prepared to make recommendations on a “go forward” plan and allow everyone to ask questions, give suggestions, etc. Again, it is absolutely necessary for everyone to become involved in some aspect of this project! Please continue to prayerfully ask God to help each of us to determine what our role may be.

Budgetary finalization for 2019 was completed by the board and presented at the February Business meeting and accepted with a few changes. We are confident our supportive congregation will continue to do what is needed not only financially but through all those other unique talents we have been blessed with to continue sharing the word of God in our community.

The BORF would like to thank all who continue to help and contribute with all their gifts so graciously and we look forward to a very interesting and busy 2019!

Respectfully submitted by the 2019 Board of Resources and Finance.

The Board of Resources and Finance for 2019 consists of Nate Rockwell, Fran Bechtold, Norman Field, Donna Foote, Jean Gagnon and Penny Henderson.



2019 Church Vegetable Garden

Even though there is snow, ice, and often mud in the Church yard right now, a true gardener begins planning in mid-winter and we are doing just that with our 2019 vegetable garden!

We had a remarkable year in 2018 and hope we can again meet or exceed the joy this important community outreach provides! We learn a little more each year and are making a few modifications to improve our yields and quality!

Organic seeds, fertilizer, and pest controls have all been ordered...and again we are going to need some help as we begin the “hard stuff” to finish the project. Here is the basic plan to “finish” the garden work started in 2018:

1. Clean out, roto-till, and fertilize the beds and top off with composted soil as needed.
2. Repair the washed out stone dust (I believe we have enough left over from last year to do this).
3. Determine a method to divert the rain water that washed away the stone dust.
4. Lay landscape fabric and fill the small trough that lies at the bottom of the fence with some type of material to eliminate weeds.
5. Complete the paths between the beds with crushed stone for a finished surface.

If anyone is interested in helping either with “sweat equity” or financially to aid in purchasing the necessary supplies, we would be grateful! We are still working out the details and will most likely communicate dates and times to do the physical work through “email blasts” that Frances will send out.

We are trying to pull together the costs, especially for the rock pathways which will be relatively expensive and may be contracted out if financially feasible. If you would like to donate to this wonderful (and tasty) cause, please put your donation in the offering plate, or send it to the Church office specifying “Church Vegetable Garden Donation”.

Thank you in advance.....and remember to eat your veggies!

Submitted by Donna Foote



SOME NEWS OF THE WIDER CHURCH

Preparation for ***Prepared to Serve*** takes many months to be ready to open its doors on the last Saturday of February each year, but it has been doing this for many, many years now. It is an important part of the ministry of the ***N.H. Conference, U.C.C.*** for the clergy and laypersons of its member churches. Last year over 500 people attended, some for the first time and many, like two people in our congregation, who have attended for many years. There are also those who attend or present from other states and other faith groups.

The huge variety of workshops available to choose from each year and the highly qualified clergy and lay leaders who present them are the big draw for the repeat attendance, but there is also always a moving worship service to begin the day and many tables of free literature from various ministry groups, such as the Ukama group for Zimbabwe, the Open & Affirming group, Outdoor ministries, & social justice ministries, as well as a delicious welcoming breakfast and a buffet lunch. This year there are 67 workshops presented in four blocks of time, on topics from the very practical, such as '***Best Financial Practices for Churches***', to current issues in the culture around us that challenge our faith, like '***A Christian Response to the Opioid Crisis***', to opportunities for personal spiritual growth, through new ways of '***Listening to the Holy Spirit***'. (Many workshops may fill up very early.)

It seems very fitting that it is during the worship service on this day in the beginning of the year that a representative of each member church attending brings their church's pledge of support ***for 'Our Church's Wider Mission' (OCWM)*** for the year, because these pledged amounts help to make this day possible.

By Joanne Millsaps, Delegate (& perennial student)



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

New Hampshire Council of Churches ~ Cycle of Prayer

Beloved, pray for us. (1 Thess. 5:25)

The NH Council of Churches has ten member denominations and there are about 475 congregations with membership in one (or more) of these denominations. This cycle groups congregations in sets of 9-10 for each week of the year. In using this in your congregation, you may wish to: Pray for the 9-10 congregations each Sunday in the Prayers of the People, General Intercessions, Universal Prayer or Pastoral Prayer as fits your own worship tradition. Pray for the congregations in smaller sets in daily or midweek prayer services. Below are the churches in the March, 2019 prayer cycle.

- March 3** Holy Trinity Church (Greek Orthodox)-Concord
Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord
East Congregational Church-Concord
First Congregational Church-Concord
South Congregational Church-Concord
West Congregational Church-Concord
Wesley United Methodist Church-Concord
Contoocook United Methodist Church
Conway Village Congregational Church
- March 10** United Church of Cornish (American Baptist)
Congregational Church-Dalton
United Church of Danbury (American Baptist, UCC)
Danville Baptist Church
Deerfield Community Church, UCC
Deering Community Church (UCC)
First Baptist Church-Derry
Holy Cross Parish-Derry
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish-Derry
- March 17** Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration-Derry
St. Luke's United Methodist Church-Derry
Betel Primera Iglesia Bautista-Dover
Assumption Parish-Dover
St. George Church (Maronite)-Dover
St. Thomas Episcopal Church-Dover
Annunciation Church (Greek Orthodox)-Dover
Dover Friends Meeting
First Parish Church Congregational-Dover
- March 24** St. John's United Methodist Church-Dover
Dublin Community Church (UCC)
Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist-Dunbarton
First Congregational Church (UCC)-Dunbarton
St. Thomas More Parish-Durham
St. George's Episcopal Church-Durham
Durham UU Fellowship
Community Church of Durham, UCC
First Parish Congregational Church, UCC-East Derry
- March 31** East Hampstead Union Church (American Baptist)
East Kingston Community United Methodist Church
Bethany United Methodist Church-East Rochester
East Washington Baptist Church
St. Helena Parish-Enfield
Community Lutheran Church-Enfield
Enfield United Methodist Church
St. Joseph Parish-Epping
Epping Community Federated Church

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

March 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 WORLD Day OF PRAYER	2
3 Noon BORF meeting  <small>Transfiguration of the Lord</small>	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday Service at Longmeadow Church, Auburn	7 7pm Choir Rehearsal	8 <div>ABC VNH Annual Gathering</div>	9
10 11am-Special Church mtg. 	11	12	13	14 7pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16 5-7pm St. Patrick's Day Dinner in the Vestry
17 	18	19	20 	21 7pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 9am-noon Food Pantry open in the Vestry
24	25	26	27	28 7pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 One Great Hour of Sharing offering						



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**

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

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Office Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

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