



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

May, 2019

Upcoming Events

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12th

Chester Town Meeting
Thursday, May 16th

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27th

June Jubilee
Saturday, June 1st



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

lines from linda,

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3 CEB)

On Ash Wednesday we began our journey through Lent. It was a time of self-reflection and finding ways to connect with God. We walked with Jesus in the wilderness and talked about his rejection. We saw the hope of renewal with repentance. We understood the love of a father with the story of the son who through his choices was lost and then was welcomed home with a party. An extravagant gift was showered on Jesus out of love. Then we waved palms as we celebrated entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. After this time of joy, our emotions changed to disbelief and concern as we shared a meal together before the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup on Maundy Thursday. By Friday we were dealing with the pain of the crucifixion. The world changed in a quiet way on Easter Sunday with the Easter Dawn Service celebrating the empty tomb and the sustenance of life found in the garden of the tomb and our own garden. This time we shared breakfast together. The culmination of Resurrection Sunday came with the joyous singing, worshiping, remembering, praying, as we joined in worship and the story of Jesus' resurrection was retold from the Gospel of Mark.

Lent and Easter tend to condense many of the emotions of life into a short period of time. In our own lives there are times when we may feel as though we are wandering and lost. We face major and minor temptations in many facets of life. We celebrate with joy the birth of a baby, but we also mourn the loss of a great grandparent. The rhythms of life vary with each person's experience, but each one of us deals with the good and the bad and the in-between.

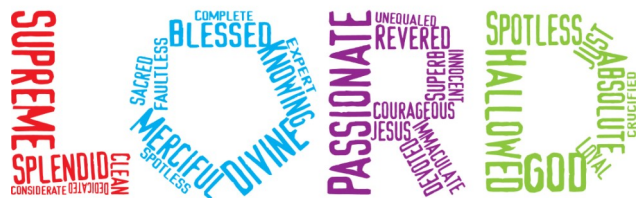
Recently I had a conversation with a woman who had great difficulty with the crucifixion. Her pain came from having seen "The Passion of Christ" years ago. The visual portrayal was just too much for her. As my conversation with the woman continued, we moved from the cross to Easter. Because we did go through the agony of the crucifixion, we were able to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection. Even with more minor events in our lives, we often have more appreciation for something we worked hard to do, than we do for something that is extremely easy. We do not want to go through pain, but when we do experience pain, loss, the wilderness, rejection, or bad choices then we understand and appreciate the joy in our lives that comes with healing, love, and finding wholeness. We are able to, as we read in Philippians 4:4 & 5: "Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people."

Resurrection Sunday was and is a great day for celebrating God's working in the world. May we continue to be Easter people as we rejoice in God's love and share that love with others.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



Lillian Arthur
JB

Keith Barnes, Mel and Judy Balk's nephew

Harry Carter, friend of Mel and Judy Balk

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

Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's step father

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Jamie Hamblett, Mary's nephew

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Janet MacGray

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family
members

Cliff Millsaps

Marge Pagliuca

Mike Pagliuca

Shirley Pike

Brenda Price

Samantha Rivera Raiche, granddaughter of
Isabel Rivera, ABC VNH Region Past President,
who has a rare form of bone cancer.

Phil Streeter

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

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

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...

John DeWall, Lynn and Nate Rockwell's family
member, who passed away recently



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, May 12th at 11:00am

Cabinet – Sunday, June 9th at 11:00am



Thank you!!

Thanks to **Monica Pagliuca** for all of her time and hard work on the Church's new and much improved website! It looks great! Monica put in many hours to get the website more user friendly for the Church Office to manage and update. Many thanks also to **Mike Pagliuca** as he is working with Paypal on the Giving/Donate page.



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!

New-and-Improved
WEBSITE



Our updated (and much improved) website is now up and running!

You can visit the website at: chesternhchurch.com (note that if you type in chesternhchurch.org, you will also get the new website). This is a work in progress, so if you notice something that is incorrect, please contact Frances in the church office. Thanks!

NH Gay Men's Chorus
2019 Spring Concert Series
We're 21... We're Legal!

NASHUA – Saturday, May 4, 2019, 7:30 pm
First Baptist Church of Nashua
121 Manchester Street, Nashua

MANCHESTER – Sunday, May 5, 2019, 4:00 pm
Derryfield School
2108 River Road, Manchester

CONCORD – Saturday, May 18, 2019, 7:30 pm
Wesley United Methodist Church
79 Clinton Street, Concord

PORTSMOUTH – Sunday, May 19, 2019, 4:00 pm
South Church
292 State Street, Portsmouth

To reserve tickets, visit their website at www.nhgmc.com





ROCKINGHAM VNA & HOSPICE

an exeter health resource

| The Art of Wellness

Monthly Drop-In Grief Support Group

To be held the 3rd Monday of every month 3:00-4:30 pm

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

This drop-in bereavement group is for those interested in exploring the grieving process in a safe, supportive environment. Sessions are free and participants are not expected to make a commitment to attend on a regular basis. Rockingham VNA & Hospice also offers weekly support groups that meet for 6-week sessions in the fall, winter, and spring.

For more information call: Jane Oldfield-Spearman or Martha Carlson at 603-772-2981.



Henry and new baby sister Stella!

Brittany's baby came early! Stella Noel Acasiete-Field was welcomed into this world on Wednesday, April 17th. She weighed 6 pound 11 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches. Parent are Brittany and Esteban Acasiete, and grandparents are Norman and Deb Field.



June Jubilee! **Saturday, June 1st**

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 or you can contact the church office

Donations for the yard sale! 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 or email chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net if you have any questions.

JUNE JUBILEE

**Saturday, June 1st ~ 9am to 2pm
Chester Congregational Baptist Church**

*** 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.com

887-4799



April showers bring May flowers or so the poem goes. Spring will come we just have to be patient. Thank you to all who participated in our Maundy Thursday service as we remembered Christ's last supper with his disciples. Thank you to Linda Noyes and Colleen Towle for making delicious soup and to Mary Hamblett for the bread.

Christ's Resurrection was celebrated on Easter Sunday, starting with the Sunrise Service behind the church building. During the service, our Community Garden was blessed. Following that service, we shared breakfast in the Vestry. Although the sun did not shine, the clouds were breaking up as we worshiped. Those attending the 10:00 a.m. service joined in the ancient greeting "The Lord is risen!" "Christ is risen indeed!" Our choir added to the service.

A big "Thank you" to the choir for continuing to sing through Easter. The choir will not be singing again this spring. If anyone would like to provide special music during the service, please speak to Jean Gagnon. Thank you also to Jean Gagnon and Mary Hamblett for planning and carrying out the worship music this winter.

May's deacon of the month is Teresa Rogers. Teresa has shared with us that she is currently in "Pathways," a UCC learning program and wants to pursue a Masters in Divinity. We want to support her spiritually and financially on her journey.

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. 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 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, Paul Scott and Teresa Rogers.



Briefing from the BORF

The month of April continued to focus on the actions and plans for the Meeting House Preservation Project. The Capital Campaign contract has been signed with David and Patricia William with a goal of raising \$300k. The Capital Campaign Executive Committee has been identified and presented to the Church at a special business meeting that was held after worship on Sunday April 7th. The Chairs and Co-Chairs will be receiving training at a three hour “Organizational Meeting” on Saturday May 4th. After this training the work begins as the task groups are formed under the Executive Committee and we start defining our strategy for success. Please prayerfully consider your response if asked to join a group as we move forward with this very important project.

As we all begin taking advantage of those “few and far between” nice spring days to do our own yard clean up, we must also focus on the Church properties! We were unable to get any significant workdays scheduled last fall due to the rainy weather and the condition of the property grounds attest to that! The first work day is scheduled for this Saturday (4/27) from 8am to noon. Please come on out and help clean up the Church, Vestry, and Parsonage grounds if you are able! Some folks have already begun property clean up, especially in the yard behind the church. Others have stated that they cannot be at the formal work day but have committed to doing some work at a time that better fits their schedule. This is a totally acceptable pro-active approach that is appreciated!

For those who are unable to do this type of physical outdoor work, a group is planning to do some inside cleanup and organization in the Vestry kitchen on the 4/27 workday. More information will be coming on that so please watch for a possible email blast.

As always, the BORF would like to thank all who continue to help and contribute with all their gifts and talents so graciously!

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.



As spring finally makes its (mostly rainy) appearance, we are in a good position getting the garden ready to begin planting the cold hardy vegetable in early May! Beds are cleaned up, fertilized, roto-tilled, and topped off with soil. Flashing to divert the rain water away from the garden is being installed, and seedlings are sprouting under their grow lights! Life is good for the gardeners! Stop by anytime and take a look at how great things are progressing! There is still work to do...but we are well ahead of the timeline!

A very special “Thank You” to the Chester Food Pantry for their kind donation that will allow us to offset some of the costs to provide this outreach! Your generosity is very much appreciated and we hope to be able to provide the community with healthy fresh produce again this year. If anyone is interested in getting involved with any of the gardens around the Church, we would be grateful and can identify projects that could use an owner! Please see Donna Foote if you have questions, comments, or would like to help in any way!

Thank You!
Submitted by Donna Foote



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



Church Meetinghouse Preservation Project

Please plan to attend the Chester Town Meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00pm in the MPR. There will be warrant article # 17 for \$15,000 toward our capital campaign. We hope all residents can turn out and vote for it (and perhaps even drive a senior!).

There will be an Organizational Meeting of the Executive Committee members of the Capital Campaign on Saturday, May 4th from 9:00am-12:00pm in the Vestry with the Rev. Dave and Pat Williams in the Vestry. The primary purpose will be to review the rules and responsibilities of each of the task groups and the time schedules of each.

Then there will be a follow up meeting for the Executive Committee members on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30pm to review our membership list and to begin to move forward with the next step. Church members and friends of the church may anticipate being contacted over the coming weeks.

The Executive Committee consists of:

Campaign Chair	Lynn Rockwell
Congregational Visitor Chairs	Mary Hamblett and Lynn Rockwell
Publicity/Brochures Team Chairs	Marge Pagliuca and Fran Bechtold
Administrative Support	Frances Kenison
Gifts Record/Acknowledge Chairs	Deborah Bonell and Penny Henderson
Prayer/Spiritual Life Chairs	Jean Gagnon and Teresa Rogers
Building Project/BORF Team Chairs	Nate Rockwell and Norman Field
Grant Research/Writing Chairs	Donna Foote and Joanne Millsaps
Planned Gifts Chairs	Mike Pagliuca and the Rev. Dave Williams
Appreciation Dinner Chairs	Deb Field and Becky Hanna
Campaign Consultants	The Rev. Dave Williams and Pat Williams
Pastor	The Rev. Linda Rackliffe



Congratulations to our Middle School Graduates:

**** James Ferron is graduating from the 8th grade at Great Bay Charter School and will attend the Great Bay Charter High School.**

**** Trinity Newcomb is graduating from Chester Academy and will attend Pinkerton Academy.**

Congratulations to our High School Graduate:

**** Alex Ferron is graduating from the Great Bay Charter High School and is going to attend a trade school to become and electrician.**

Congratulations to our College Graduate:

**** Monica Pagliuca is graduating from UNH Manchester with a degree in Computer Science and Information Systems.**

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Church Services: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*			1	2 	3	4 9am-noon Capital Campaign Chair training- Vestry
5 1:30-4pm Rockingham Assoc. Meeting, Deerfield	6	7	8 6:30pm BORF meeting	9	10	11 Church clean-up day-rain date
12 11am Deacons meeting	13	14	15	16 7pm Chester Town Meeting	17	18
						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
26 	27	28	29	30 	31	



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

Worship Service

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

Office Phone: 603-887-4799

Office Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

Church Website: chesternhchurch.com