



# Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

*Catch the Spirit*  
*November, 2018*

**Upcoming Events**

**All Saints' Day**

Thursday, November 1st

**Church Work Day**

Saturday, November 3rd ~ 8am to noon

**Daylight Saving Time ends**

Sunday, November 4th

**Veterans' Day**

Sunday, November 11th

**Commitment Sunday**

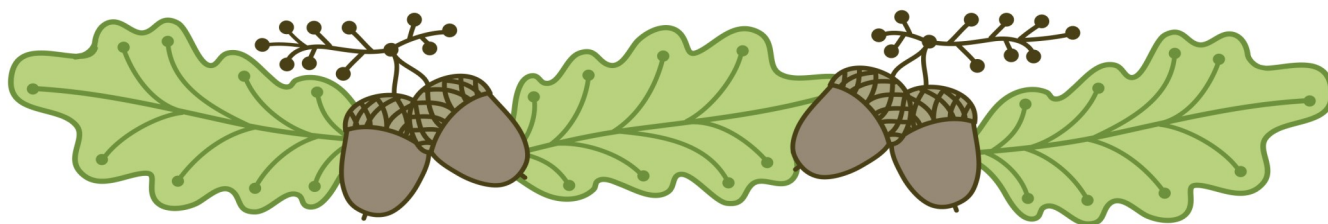
Sunday, November 18th

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

Thursday, November 22nd

**Christmas in the Village**

Saturday, December 1st



**Please join us every Sunday for Worship at 10:00am**  
**Communion is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month**

## *Lines from Linda,*

*I put all my hope in the Lord. He leaned down to me; he listened to my cry for help. He lifted me out of the pit of death, out of the mud and filth, and set my feet on solid rock. He steadied my legs. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise for our God. Many people will learn of this and be amazed; they will trust the Lord.*

*(Psalm 40:1-3, CEB)*

How many times have we felt as though we are in a bottomless pit where we cannot get out? Events in our lives overwhelm us. These may be in our personal lives, at our jobs, in our church, or even in our recreation. They may be financial, health related, conflicts, misunderstandings, or many other situations. Hearing about shootings, lack of civility, and hatred in this country make us wonder if we can put our hope in the Lord. Whatever the negative may be, it tends to drag us down.

Yet, I find hope in the Psalmist. For the writer of this Psalm recognizes that God does listen and when we are patient God will put a new song on our lips. God is the one in whom we should put our trust.

It is not always easy to trust in God. As we look at what needs to be done to the building, it is overwhelming. The time and energy that needs to be put into the project scares us. Yet God calls us to be a church and will be with us as we work with each other, share with each other, and move out to share with the world. Trusting in God does not let us off the hook for the work which we must do, but we can do it because we know that in the midst of chaos or the pit of death God is with us.

We are entering the time of the year where there is more darkness than sunlight. Daylight Savings Time changed to Eastern Standard Time and darkness begins around 4:30pm. This is the beginning of what seems to be a never ending cycle of holidays. Halloween is over, but now we have Thanksgiving, Advent, Hanukkah, Blue Christmas, Christmas, New Year's Day, Epiphany and other holidays on the horizon. As a church, November is the time of conversation about stewardship and commitment. These are times of celebration and coming together as friends and family. These are times of stress and being overwhelmed. These are times for worshiping and praising God. These are time when people feel alone and try to deal with loss. These are times of high expectations as well as unmet expectations. These are times when we need a solid rock.

As we move through the holidays with all their preparations and celebrations, may we focus on the God who puts a new song in our mouths. As we make difficult decisions and begin together to do some hard work, may we recognize that God is our rock. May we sing a song of praise.

*Shalom,*

*Pastor Linda*



**Annika Akselsson**, Joanne Millsaps' cousin  
**Angela, Shirley, Ron and Trebor**, friends of  
Judy Balk

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

**Lillian Arthur**

**Bree Coward**, Nate and Lynn Rockwell's niece

**Bill Curtin**

**Joyce Diemer**

**Debbie Drew**, prayers for son and family

**Alex Ferron**

**Mary Hamblett**

**Elizabeth Colman Hardy**

**Steve Hebert**

**Pauline Hoyt**

**Rich LaCombe**

**Hayden Lane**

**John Lighthall**

**Rhonda List**

**Avery and Linda Millsaps**, Cliff's family  
members

**Cliff Millsaps**

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

**Brenda Price**

**Sally St. Clair**

**Elaine Storlazzi**, friend of Colleen Towle

**Dean Towlas**

**The people of Camaroon** who are involved in  
a civil war, including relatives of **Ruthy**, Mel and  
Judy Balk's adopted Goddaughter

**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...**

**Dr. Phil Bolton**, who passed away on October  
8<sup>th</sup>. He was the husband of **The Rev. Linda  
Bolton**, a retired ABC/VNH pastor.



## BOARD MEETINGS

### **Upcoming Board Meetings:**

**BORF** – Wednesday, November 7th at 6:30pm

**Deacons** – Sunday, November 11th at 11am



**Daylight Saving Time ends on  
Sunday, November 4th at 2am.  
Remember to turn your clocks  
back one hour.**

**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!



### Church Work Day

**Saturday, November 3rd  
8am to noon**

This work day was moved from  
October 27th due to the bad weather.



### St. Luke's UMC Annual Harvest Supper **Saturday, November 3, 2018**

**Two Seatings:** 4:30-5:30pm and 5:30-6:30pm

**Menu Includes:** Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Squash, Peas, Carrots, Rolls, Homemade Pies, Cider, Milk, Coffee, Tea

**Cost:** Adults \$10.00, Seniors \$8.00, Children (3-12) \$5.00 and Children under 3 are free

**Reservations** can be made by calling the church at 434-4767 or Tammy Craft at 437-2635.



Set-up for the Thanksgiving baskets is Thursday, November 15th at 3:30 in the Vestry. Distribution of the baskets will be on Saturday, November 17th from 9am to noon.

#### Thanksgiving Basket needs:

Stuffing  
Pie Crust

Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce

Pie Filling  
Boxed Baked Goods

#### Current Food Pantry needs:

Cereal  
Peanut Butter  
Spaghetti O's or other canned pasta

Powdered drink mixes  
Canned Fruit  
Jams and Jellies

Oatmeal  
Macaroni & Cheese  
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*





## COMMITMENT SUNDAY

### Commitment Sunday Sunday, November 18th

The month of November is typically the time when Churches across our denominations consider God's call to be stewards of all He has given us. Our stewardship theme this year is "Living Courageously" and Pastor Linda will be sharing thoughts on this theme on the first three Sundays in November. On November 4<sup>th</sup> we will be looking at 1 Timothy 6:6-19 to learn about God's abundance and generosity and our response to God's generosity as disciples of Christ. On November 11<sup>th</sup> we will look at Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24 as we talk about the courage it takes to live as disciples of Christ. On November 18<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Sunday) we will give thanks to God by making our financial commitments to the Church for the coming year.

You can bring your completed pledge card to church and place it in the offering plate or you can mail it back to the church. Please send in the card by December 2nd to aid our boards in completing the 2019 budget. Thank you!



Thanksgiving  
DINNER

### Community Pot Luck Thanksgiving Dinner

Hampstead Congregational Church

Thanksgiving Day, November 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Dinner begins at 1pm

Do you find yourself alone on Thanksgiving? Hampstead Congregational Church will be hosting a pot luck Thanksgiving dinner. They will roast the turkey and they ask that you bring a dish to share. **RSVP** by Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> by calling 329-6985 or email [hcc1752@gmail.com](mailto:hcc1752@gmail.com).



## MITTEN TREE

### Mitten Tree

The Food Pantry will again be providing gifts for the children of the families who receive Christmas baskets. A paper mitten is made for each child and each mitten has on it a code letter, sex and age of the child, and his/her wish list. The mittens are grouped by family so that presents bought will cost about the same amount for each child. Those wanting to take a mitten are encouraged to get together with friends and family to shop together. **The mittens will be available on Sunday, November 25th** and also on a small tree at our Christmas Fair. Each person taking a mitten is asked to sign a sheet indicating what mitten has been taken.

**These presents are then wrapped, the paper mitten is attached to each one and brought to the church by Sunday, December 9th.**

Please contact Cindy McLaughlin at 887-4626 if you have any questions.



## Loaf and Ladle

Colleen Towle is serving just pies for dessert at the Loaf and Ladle lunch this year. *If you would like to make a pie, she will provide the pie plate for you so she has consistent sizes for serving.* She is also looking for folks to bake bread. If you would like to make a pie or bread, please contact Colleen by email [kittygrammy@mygsc.com](mailto:kittygrammy@mygsc.com). **Thanks!**



## Christmas in the Village Saturday, December 1st 9am – 2pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church Vestry  
4 Chester Street, Chester

Our craft sale features quality,  
handmade crafts, unique holiday  
gifts, delicious bake shop, Tiffany's  
of Chester, live music and wassail  
for all to enjoy.

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At Stevens Memorial Hall:  
*Loaf and Ladle Lunch* will be  
served from 11am-2pm  
*Chester Seniors Cookie Walk*  
begins at 9am

Please visit our website: [www.chesternhchurch.org](http://www.chesternhchurch.org)



What a weekend! A rainy, windy Nor'easter was upon us on Saturday. I was at a wedding, and except for dampening the outside it was a warm and joyous occasion. Pumpkins are carved and the church is ready for the Halloween onslaught as we effortlessly slip into November. Preparations are underway for the Christmas in the Village Fair. It's not too early to start gathering your ideas and making some homemade crafts for the fair. Hopefully we'll have a good representation of a variety of items. Please contact Deb Field if you have any ideas about what you might like to make. We will need to plan ahead to have enough space. Decorating the church for Advent will occur on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> after worship following a light lunch. All hands are welcome. Last year's decorating went so quickly because we had many hands.

Autumn is a great time to begin a prayer shawl. Sitting beside your fireplace in the chilly evenings with a nice cup of tea is a nice way to unwind, meditate and mindfully say prayers to the unknown people who will receive such a heartfelt gift. It seems like many need the shawls during the fall, winter and spring. 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.

Choir rehearsals are moving along and we welcome any who would like to join our motley crew. Rehearsals are from 7:00pm sharp until 8:30 pm every Thursday evening. In order to have consistency and run through the music, music director Mark Lutton has asked that everyone be on time. The choir is presently rehearsing for the Christmas Cantata that will be presented on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the third Sunday of Advent. If you haven't heard our music director is leaving us at the end of December. Although we are very excited and supportive of Mark's new direction, we will miss him. A search committee has been established to find a new director. 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. We will also have current music director, Mark Lutton, weighing in on the decision.

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](http://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, 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

As autumn graces our beautiful town and state, the scarecrows are out in full force, the leaves are coming down, and the BORF has been doing the necessary planning to communicate and prepare the short term tasks to clean up and button down the properties before winter. This includes a scheduled work day on Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup> (rain date November 3<sup>rd</sup>) where we hope to focus some much needed attention on the landscaping around the Parsonage as well as the standard fall cleanup for all the grounds. We really need a good turnout for this event; even an hour of work helps lighten the load for everyone!

We have contracted the fuel oil price with the town which allows us to get a preferred rate and we are actively working with a few tree companies to determine what the best option is to deal with the aging trees that are dropping limbs on the properties. We also will need to do some patch work on the stone dust in the vegetable gardens as we were in direct line with the run off from torrential rains. We will need some strong backs to haul and rake the stone dust back in place so if you can help, please contact Donna Foote.

As we speak of the 2018 church garden.....we feel it was a big success this year! The veggies and flowers looked great thanks to the generosity of many to enlarge the plot and build the fence. We shared lots of great produce with the church members, friends, townspeople, and food pantry and our Sanctuary was beautified with cut flowers. The culmination of this was our wonderful "Taste of the Garden" event which showcased some delicious bites all made from our veggies! We hope to continue this going forward.

Everyone should be aware of our longer term project that will need to be embraced by the entire church! The BORF is working diligently to formulate a plan to address the necessary rehabilitation and restoration needed to save our beautiful steeple. The special appeal letter we sent out last month raised the necessary funds for an interim measure to stabilize the base of the tower with the goal of making the tower box as weather tight as possible before winter. We thank all who were so generous and we are working to get a schedule set up with the contractor to do this before winter. Our next steps are setting up meetings with people outside of our church who may be resources to help guide us in what will be a large and complex capital campaign project. More information will be forthcoming as we begin looking at both internal and external resources as we begin this journey. Please pray for this project and ask God to help each of us to determine what our role and contribution may be.

*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.*



# Chester Congregational Baptist Church

## November 2018

| Sunday                                                                                                             | Monday                                        | Tuesday                                                                                | Wednesday                                  | Thursday                                                                                                       | Friday | Saturday                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday Church Services:</b><br>*10:00am Family Worship<br>*Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*     |                                               |                                                                                        |                                            | 1<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal<br> | 2      | 3<br>8am-noon Church Clean up day                          |
| 4<br>                             | 5                                             | 6<br> | 7<br>6:30pm BORF meeting with presentation | 8<br>10am FIGGs meeting<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                                                 | 9      | 10                                                         |
| 11<br>11am Deacons' meeting<br> | 12<br>11am Town of Chester Veterans' Ceremony | 13                                                                                     | 14                                         | 15<br>3:30pm set-up for food pantry<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                                     | 16     | 17<br>9am-noon Distribute Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets |
| 18<br>                          | 19                                            | 20                                                                                     | 21                                         | 22<br>                     | 23     | 24                                                         |
| 25<br>                          | 26                                            | 27                                                                                     | 28                                         | 29<br>7pm Choir Rehearsal                                                                                      | 30     |                                                            |



**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**

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](mailto:chesternhpastor@mygsc.com)

**Music Director Email:** [chestermusic@marklutton.com](mailto:chestermusic@marklutton.com)

**Office Phone:** 603-887-4799

**Office Email:** [chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net](mailto:chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net)

**Church Website:** [chesternhchurch.org](http://chesternhchurch.org)