



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

June, 2019

Upcoming Events

June Jubilee

Saturday, June 1st ~ 9am—2pm

Pentecost

Sunday, June 9th ~ please wear RED to Church today

Father's Day

Sunday, June 16th

200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the First Regular Baptist Society of Chester

June 30th

July 7th & 14th at 9:30am

Worship at Chester Congregational Baptist Church with Pastor Ruth Gallot leading the services (July 7th is Communion Sunday).

July 21st and 28th at 9:30am

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



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

Lines from Linda,

Speak to the Israelites and say to them: These are my appointed times, the Lord's appointed times, which you will declare to be holy occasions:

You must count off seven weeks starting with the day after the Sabbath, the day you bring the bundle for the uplifted offering; these must be complete. You will count off fifty days until the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you must present a new grain offering to the Lord .
(Leviticus 23:2, 15-16 CEB)

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.
(Acts 2:1-4 CEB)

In the Old Testament we find that the Jewish people had, and still celebrate today, several festivals and feasts. A major list is found in Leviticus 23. The most recent was the Feast of the Passover which took place from April 19-27. Some of the other feasts and festivals include First Fruits, Pentecost (also known as Weeks or Shavu'ot), Trumpet, Atonement, and Tabernacles. While some of these may be known to people outside the Jewish circles, the one that affects Christians in the month of June this year is Pentecost.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Passover in the Jewish Tradition. It is also known as the Festival of Weeks or Shavu'ot. As an agricultural festival, it is when the first grains are harvested and brought to the Temple. However, another significance to this holy day is that it is a reminder of the giving of the Torah to the Hebrew children at Mt. Sinai.

Christians gave a new meaning to this day. In Acts we read that the disciples were gathered together when the Holy Spirit blew in with flames. Everyone could understand each other and later that day, after a speech by Peter, approximately 3000 people joined with other followers of Jesus. This is part of the beginning of the early church. We consider it the birthday of the church. It is a time of celebration and a time of new beginnings. Our birthday party will be on June 9, 2019.

On June 30, 2019 we will have another celebration of something new. Actually it is old, as this date is the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the First Regular Baptist Society of Chester. There were 16 members of this society and they were led by Deacons Walter Morse, Josiah Chase, and Secretary William Bell. Elder William Taylor of Concord was called to preach. Did they have a church building? No, they met in the ballroom of Pearson Richardson's Tavern. Did they have a regular preacher? No, they hired clergy who were willing to preach in Chester for \$5 per Sunday. The preacher boarded at a believer's home. Yet that small church grew and shared the Gospel in Chester. We will celebrate this event on the last Sunday in June. (paraphrased from Chester Revisited by Richard Holmes, Peter E. Randall Publisher, Portsmouth, NH 1998, pages 115-116)

Part of this church's heritage goes back to Judaism, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Reformation, the Chester Congregational Church, the First Regular Baptist Society of Chester, the formation of the United Church of Christ. Despite growth and changes, peaks and valleys, mergers and splits, the Chester Congregational Baptist Church continues to spread the word and love of God as well as do the ministry of Jesus in Chester. We are different than the original churches, but our purpose has not changed. We are still filled with the Holy Spirit as disciples of Christ. Let's celebrate God's presence all the time, but with special events in June.

Shalom, Pastor Linda



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, June 5th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, June 9th at 11:00am

Cabinet—Sunday, June 9th at 11:00am



Lillian Arthur

JB

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

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Janet MacGray

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family
members

Cliff Millsaps

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

Clarence Ware

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

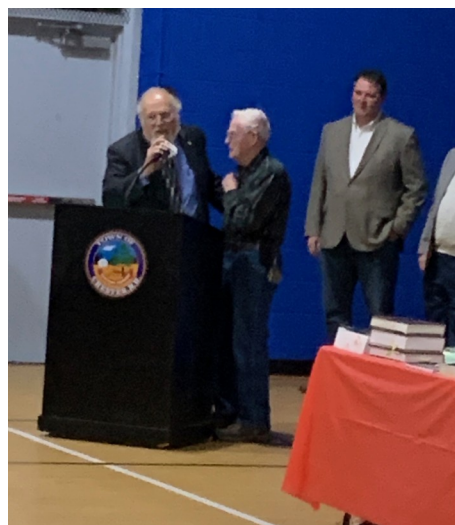
Janet MacGray

Barbara Rice

Evelyn Wise

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

Gerry Gerry, Gen Rowell's sister, who died on
May 14th



Pictured in the center is George Noyes at the recent Chester Town Meeting. George was recognized for his many years of service to the town. He received a standing ovation in honor of his upcoming retirement..



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!



Welcome Calvin Andrew Gallant!

Born on Tuesday, May 7th

19 1/2" long, 7 lbs. 1 oz.

Parents are Andrew & Bronwyn Gallant, sister is Blake,
and Grandparents are Norman & Deb Field.



Pentecost is Sunday, June 9th

Please wear red to church.

All are welcome!



**The 200th anniversary of the Baptist Church of Chester
incorporation is June 30, 2019 and will be celebrated during the
10:00am Worship service.**

From "Chester Revisited" by Richard Holmes: "This gathering was formally incorporated as a church on June 30, 1819, the First Regular Baptist Society of Chester, with sixteen members. The church had no resident cleric during the early years but hired whatever Baptist clergyman could be persuaded to preach a sermon in Chester. The going rate seems to have been five dollars per Sunday, with the preacher boarding at one of the believer's home."



July 7th & 14th at 9:30am

Worship at Chester Congregational Baptist Church
with Pastor Ruth Gallot leading the services
(July 7th is Communion Sunday).

July 21st and 28th at 9:30am

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

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

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

Ace/Ben Franklin Hardware, Raymond

Bittersweet Blessings, Chester

Cashmere Gardens, Chester

Phil & Sue Cassista

Center Scoop Ice Cream, Chester

Chester General Store, Chester

Dillon Old Farm, Chester

Dunkin Donuts, Derry

Folsoms Sugar House, Chester

G & P Pizza, Chester

Gordo's Burritos and Tacos, Raymond

Hannaford Supermarket, Raymond

Elva Hawkins

Mr. Steer, Londonderry

Olde Post Restaurant, Chester

Panera Bread, Derry

Shaw's Supermarket, Derry

Walmart, Derry

All of our Volunteers!!

Briefing from the BORF



The beginning of May again had the BORF spending the majority of our time focusing on the actions and plans for the Meeting House Preservation Project. It should be noted that every BORF member volunteered to be a co-chair on the Capital Campaign Executive Committee (CCEC) in those areas that they are skilled in! This keeps us fully involved in the project, BUT with all the other team members of the CCEC beginning to formulate their work and strategies, we feel can concentrate the appropriate amount of time to those “day to day” BORF tasks that are necessary to keep our properties and finances in order!

As we all know, the weather conditions this spring were almost as rainy as last fall as we planned to clean up the grounds around all the properties! The first work day was scheduled on Saturday 4/27 and again, it was cold and rainy! Nonetheless, a group of 15 hardy folks arrived and some braved the rain and mud to do some significant cleanup at the Parsonage and Church! Others worked in the Vestry giving the kitchen a deep cleaning and purging of items that are not being used. All the inside windows were washed. The curtains and sound barrier covers have been laundered (Thank You Martie Samuelson) and our Vestry is well on its way to being clean and organized! Thanks to all who worked so hard not only on this Saturday, but on subsequent days to pro-actively finish up some of the work! We feel we are on to something with people committing to doing work outside of scheduled times when they have some free time. We have many “behind the scenes” people who do so much more than we realize and we are grateful for them!

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.



Well, May has been an interesting month weather-wise, and by interesting I mean just when you wanted to throttle it, because it rains constantly Memorial Day weekend happened and you forgave it. So let us just enjoy our tumultuous relationship with the month of May (even though the saying is “**April** showers bring May flowers”). Speaking of showers and flowers, if anybody wants to donate worship flowers; that transaction goes through Frances, so contact the church office.

If you know how to knit, start knitting a prayer shawl with the yarn at the back of the church. Pick a color and have at it, it’s a thriving ministry (unfortunately) and we need your help. Also, if you know somebody who usually comes to church but can’t because of sickness or injury...GO VISIT THEM! And if you can’t, remind a deacon and we will try to make a visit happen.

The garden is under full swing thanks to Donna and Jean and we’ve put stone down to keep it tidy. Thanks to Herb for the cute caps he made for each post.

Pray for our church. Pray for each other. We are small but we are faithful. Our God wants to work wondrous things through us. Let’s celebrate the power of faith and love as we continue our adventure in restoring the Meetinghouse.

Submitted by Teresa Rogers

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

Meetinghouse Preservation Project News

Chester Community Shows Overwhelming Support! At this year's Chester Town Meeting on Thursday night May 16th, there was a warrant article for \$15,000 toward steeple repair. It was voted in overwhelmingly with no questions or concerns from the community! Below is the transcript of what Lynn Rockwell read to the town in support of the article—which was 200 people in the room plus it was televised at home.

Speech for Town Meeting 5/16/19

On behalf of the Chester Congregational Baptist Church, we **thank** the Selectmen for introducing Article #17 for \$15,000 toward steeple repair. It is an excellent kick start for our new Capital Campaign, which begins now.

This beautiful historic church building in the heart of Chester's Village Center is our town's iconic landmark. Our "skyline". (*point to my "Chester Skyline" t-shirt and get a laugh!*) We all drive by it, glance at the clock and enjoy it every day. It is the epitome of the classic look of a small New England town. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The Town of Chester owns and maintains the clock, which was installed in 1881.

Every image of Chester has her at its center, and it will take a village to repair and preserve her. As the building was Chester's historic meetinghouse, we are calling this Capital Campaign the **"Meetinghouse Preservation Project."**

As you can see on your handout, we had a professional assessment done last year. The good news is that overall the building is in very good condition. However, there are several areas that need repair, and the steeple is the most urgent. There are leaks that are causing damage and that must be addressed. The total project estimate is \$450,000, and the steeple portion will cost about half of that. As we move forward with our 3-year Capital Campaign, you all will have opportunities to learn more about her history, to participate in the preservation project, and to take pride in her beauty at the end. We plan to have the work completed in time for the town's 300th anniversary celebration in 2022. We are applying for grants.

More details are available on our new website, chesterNHchurch.org. There is a DONATE button on the website. Feel free to be generous, and please be reassured that your donations will go entirely to building repairs.

Together, as the greater Chester community, I know that we can accomplish our goal! Please vote YES for Article #17. Thank you!

The Executive Committee has continued to meet regularly throughout May and our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 19 when those folks who will be Visitors will be trained by the consultants Rev. Dave and Pat Williams on how to properly visit others. Please note that we will begin calling folks and requesting your generous pledges soon so be ready! :-)

Submitted by Lynn Rockwell



PRESERVING OUR EARLY HISTORY

Our most exciting historical information this month is that our Baptist church will be celebrating its Bicentennial on June 30! It was on June 30, 1819, that *The First Regular Baptist Society of Chester* was incorporated! This formal name isn't the one we're used to hearing, but it's pretty impressive! At that time there were 'regular' Baptists, Free-Will Baptists, and Calvin Baptists living in or around Chester, and it was the group of 'regular' Baptists that were formally incorporated. Our Pastor has heard of a Baptist Society being spoken of in a way that's similar to the word 'Parish', which might be more familiar to us. The Congregational Parish began as an integral, self-governing part of the town of Chester in 1731, similar to the way the Chester School District is now. Just as a school district is different than a school building or a student body, so a parish is different than a church building or congregation. A school district and a parish cover the same geographical area and the same population as the town where they are located, but have a different organizational structure and a different mission than the town has.

June 30 falls on a Sunday this year, so we will be able to honor the Baptist Bicentennial during our worship service on the exact date!

Also at this time, as we need to raise funds to repair our steeple, and as the Town Meeting voted to contribute \$15,000 to help us do this, we might wonder how the church and town are connected on this project. For anyone who wasn't able to be at Town Meeting and hear Lynn Rockwell's presentation about our needing help to repair the structure that holds the clock and the bell, or for anyone who is curious about why we are working together on this, it's good to understand that "our bell and clock are not really 'ours'". They have belonged to the town since colonial days or in the 1800's. We are the ones providing a safe home for them. The town bought the first bell to hang in this 'belfry' in 1784. It cracked ringing 95 times for the 95 years of age of our long time Pastor Rev. Flagg, and it was enlarged and re-cast. Once again it cracked and the town had it recast, and once again it cracked. The bell that was re-cast in 1828 has been ringing ever since! The Town bought two clocks that didn't run well, and then bought one that was installed in 1882 and is still running today! The town also paid to have both the bell and the clock electrically automated when it became more difficult to find people to do this 'by hand'. So now, in 2019, the town and church continue to 'partner' in the care of these two icons of our shared history.

Submitted by Joanne Millsaps



2019 Church Vegetable Garden – JUNE update

Spring has finally begun to feel like spring! Those few weeks of cold rain didn't allow us to get the germination we wanted on some of the root crops, but with some minor re-seeding, we are in pretty good shape. We are planning to get the heat loving seedlings in the ground by June 1st. The flashing to divert the rain water away from the garden was installed and more stone dust was added to keep the weeds at bay around the fence. Herb Rowell added post caps to the fence and we are looking great, especially with the new stone paths. Stop by when you get a chance and take a look at how we are progressing!

A very special "Thank You" to all who have helped with the garden! Our seedlings were purchased locally at Cashmere Gardens on Lane Rd and Meredith gave us a great deal on some very hardy plants and we are grateful for her kindness.

If anyone is interested in getting involved with any of the gardens

around the Church, we would be happy to 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

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

June 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|--|---|
| Sunday Church Services: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month* | | | | | | 1 9am-2pm June Jubilee |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 6:30pm BORF meeting | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 11am Deacons' meeting 11am Cabinet meeting  PENTECOST SUNDAY | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |  FLAG DAY | 15 |
| 16  Happy Father's Day!  TRINITY SUNDAY | 17 | 18 | 19 6:30pm Executive Committee meeting in Vestry | 20 | 21 Summer begins! | 22 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30  Church ANNIVERSARY | | | | | | |



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

Office Phone: 603-887-4799

Office Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

Church Website: chesternhchurch.org