



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit
July and August, 2019

Upcoming Events

Summer Worship

Worship begins at 9:30am for the month of July

July 7th and 14th

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

July 21st and 28th

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

Chester Town Fair

Saturday, September 7th



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

lines from linda,

I've commanded you to be brave and strong, haven't I? Don't be alarmed or terrified, because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9 CEB)

Normally when I write something for the summer newsletter, I write about taking time during July and August to relax and enjoy. It can be a time of rest, renewal and reflection as people enjoy the recreational activities that New Hampshire has to offer. Often during the summer we move at a slower pace and do more things with others than we do in the winter. In some ways it is a sabbath time as we take breaks from our regular routines. After all the work the church did during the spring, it is time for a break. At times some of our boards do not meet in the summer.

However, this summer will be different as the work of the Capital Campaign committees will be in full swing. The Executive Committee will be meeting and the visitors will have a least one more meeting before they start calling on potential donors. While these are the two groups will have a major focus over the next few months, there are still sub-committees doing their work behind the scenes. The church is not slowing down or taking the summer off.

Those who will be visiting potential donors will need all the support the church can provide. Many are struggling with idea going out and asking for money. New Englanders just do not do that. Yet they are willing to stretch themselves as they share this project with church members, people who do not attend church, and even businesses. It will take courage and the visitors will need to be brave and strong. They need our prayers but they also need our willingness to meet with them for conversation. While this is a fund raising project, a big part of this project will be the relationships that develop as the visitors and the people they visit engage in conversation. As people share and listen to each other, relationships can develop or be strengthened. We can learn more about each other through these conversations than we learn sitting in the church pews on Sunday morning. This is much more than just a fund raising project.

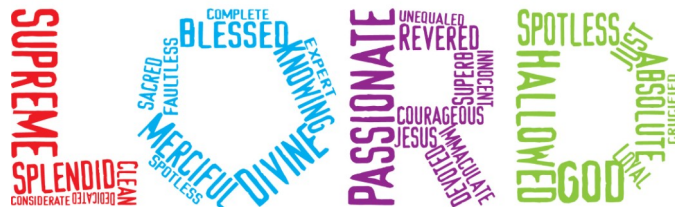
It is also a time to recognize that God is with us wherever we go. When visitors remember that they are not alone because God is with them along with the congregation, they can have the courage and the energy to do the task which is at hand. Even when there is discouragement, knowing there is support enables people to move on and move forward.

This summer we will be taking vacations, enjoying recreational activities, working on the Capital Campaign, and developing relationships. We cannot neglect our spiritual life. May we remember to keep God at the center of our lives, regardless of what we are doing. May we continue to take time for worshipping God. If we take care of our spiritual life, we can be brave, strong, and energetic as we follow God's leading this summer.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



Lillian Arthur

JB

Coleman Family

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

James Cooney, friend of Mike Elliott

Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's step father

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Elizabeth Colman Hardy

Carol Kimball

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

Sally St. Clair

Phil, Corey Davison's uncle

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...

Becky Eaton who died on June 11th

Anita Stuart who died on June 11th



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, July 10th at 6:30pm and
Wednesday, August 7th at 6:30pm

Deacons – No July meeting and Sunday,
August 11th at 11:00am

Meetinghouse Preservation Project

Executive Committee—Wednesday, July 17th
at 6:30pm and Wednesday, August 21st at
6:30pm; meetings are held in the Vestry



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UCC in Auburn with Pastor Linda Rackliffe
leading the services.



Remember to shop AmazonSmile!

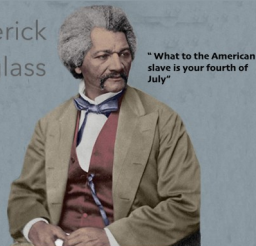
Amazon.com offers an amazing income opportunity
for non-profit groups and Chester Congregational
Baptist Church is part of AmazonSmile. You do not
need to set up a new Amazon.com account and your
purchase price does not increase. Amazon is willing to
share its sales commission with non-profits. All it 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!

Community Reading

Frederick Douglass



Community Reading ~ Wednesday, July 3rd at noon **Frederick Douglass: "What to the American slave is your fourth of July?"**

A public reading of one of the 19th century's most famous speeches will take place at noon on July 3rd at various locations. **"What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"** asked Frederick Douglass in 1852.

Douglass, one of our nation's greatest orators and abolitionists, was asked to speak at an event in commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In his provocative speech, Douglass said, "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn." And he asked, "Do you mean, citizens, to mock me, by asking me to speak to-day?" Douglass's speech remains emotionally powerful and thought-provoking more than a century and a half after he gave it.

People of all ages and different walks of life are asked to gather at noon at the various locations listed to take turns reading parts of the speech until the entire speech has been read. Community leaders around the country participate in these readings—people such as town officials, teachers and activists, the police and fire chiefs, and heads of key organizations come together with ordinary neighborhood folk.

The abolition of slavery was set in motion in New York state on July 5, 1799. This speech was first given by Douglass on the 5th of July, which was called "Black Man's Independence Day" because Blacks were not allowed to march in white men's parades. Their own parades would get disrupted by whites if they tried to march on the 4th of July.

This free public event is sponsored in part by Eastern Bank and is a program of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH) in collaboration with local historical societies. Please visit their website for more information: <http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/>

The reading will take place at the following locations:

Nashua, Rivier College

Warner, Town Hall

Lebanon, Colburn Park

Dover, Public Library

Portsmouth, Strawberry Banke Museum, Visitor Center

Plymouth, Town Green

Hopkinton, Town Hall

Exeter, Historical Society

Manchester, TBD

Keene, St James Episcopal Church

Trip to Israel in February, 2020

Rev. Joseph Anaman, pastor of the Community Church of Milton, NH would like to share an opportunity. His mentor is leading a trip to Israel in February 13-23, 2020 and he is extending the invitation to any of us in our ABC VNH region.

Some sites included in the trip: Mt. Carmel, Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernum, wooden boat ride on the sea of Galilee, Mt. Hermon, Mt. of Olives, Temple Mt. and more.

Cost (from Miami or Boston), per person, double occupancy is \$3,300. Contact the church office for more information about the trip and how to contact Rev. Joseph Anaman.

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

Ace/Ben Franklin Hardware, Raymond
Bittersweet Blessings, Chester
Phil & Sue Cassista
Cashmere Gardens, Chester
Center Scoop Ice Cream, Chester
Chester General Store, Chester
Dillon Old Farm, Chester
Dunkin Donuts, Derry
Folsom's 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, Derry
Walmart, Derry
All of our volunteers!

NHCUCC Welcomes Rev. Dr Kennedy Gondongwe

The Rev. Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe, Principal of the United Theological Seminary in Harare, Zimbabwe, will be visiting the UCC New Hampshire Conference during the week of July 8-15. All are invited to a Welcome Worship and Light Luncheon for Rev. Dr. Kennedy on Monday, July 8, 2019, 2:00 - 3:00 PM at Brookside Congregational Church, UCC, 2013 Elm St in Manchester. Please RSVP to Charen Urban (603) 995-1248 or charenlurban@yahoo.com.



**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."



Summer has finally arrived! This means vacations, outdoor activities, change in routines. We encourage you to include in these activities attending Sunday worship. It doesn't matter whether it is here in Chester or elsewhere. God doesn't take a vacation! He is with us 24/7.

A reminder: the first two Sundays of July, we will be worshipping here, at **9:30 a.m.** with Rev. Ruth Gallot preaching; the last two Sundays of July we will be worshipping at the Longmeadow Church, also at **9:30 a.m.** Service time will return to 10:00 a.m. in August.

If you know of someone who needs assistance, please contact the Deacon of the month—Paul Scott (548-3307) in July and Deb Field (489-8144) in August. The Deacons have a Discretionary Fund that is available.

We continue to need knitters and crocheters to make prayer shawls. Yarn and directions are available. These are given to those who are ill or grieving or having a difficult time. Each shawl is blessed before it is given out.

As the Meetinghouse Preservation Project gets underway this month, please keep in prayer those who are visiting and those who are being visited. Updates will be given as results of the visits come in.

Pastor Linda will be on vacation the first two weeks of July. If you need assistance, call the church office, Paul Scott (548-3307) or Mary Hamblett (437-3813).

Enjoy the summer, stay well, and stay in tune with God!

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

Briefing from the BORF



As we begin our summer season, the BORF will continue to meet at least monthly to try to work on those projects and issues that still need attention. We again want to thank all those who have helped so willingly and generously to resolve some of the issues on the “task list” that will continue to be updated and published. Each task that gets crossed off is an indication that we are indeed a stewardship minded group who wants to take care of the beautiful asset God has entrusted to us! If you would like to take ownership of a task or project, please see a member of the BORF and we would be very happy to discuss with you!

There are a few other projects that the BORF will be addressing over the summer and early fall months.

- We have a quote and a plan to clean up the unsightly weeds where the large evergreen trees were removed on the 102 side behind the Church. This area will have the weeds dug up and removed, loam spread, and grass seed applied in the early fall (when there are fewer weeds). Thanks to Norm Field who is working to keep it under control until then!
- We believe we have identified the issue with the sound system as faulty wires and cables. We have found a supplier so will be purchasing new ones. Hopefully this solves the problems that we have intermittently experienced during our worship service.

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

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.



A Request from the BORF

Please take a look at the following task list and see if you can help out the Church/BORF by sharing some of your valuable time and skills. If you have any questions contact a member of the BORF.

Task List for Church, Vestry and Parsonage:

- **Repair any loose hymnal holders in Church pews
- **Seal the flashing where the Church back door roof connects to the church
- **Remove large yard waste pile in back of the Vestry
- **Remove branch hanging from the tree to the left of the Vestry front door
- **Remove small trees growing up against outside wall of the kitchen side of the Vestry



2019 Church Vegetable Garden – SUMMER update

Summer is finally here and with a bit more sunshine and warmth, we expect the garden to provide an abundance of produce to share with the community! There were certainly some challenges with our cool, windy, and rainy spring and a few beds needed some replanting, but we are in pretty good shape right now. While the *gardeners* are not fans of hot summer weather....the *gardens* love it so we will grin and bear the discomfort for fresh and delicious veggies!

Again a big “Thank You” to all who have helped with the garden! Deb Blake has planted all the flower seeds in the four corner beds and we hope that you will enjoy them as they are sure to grace our sanctuary and vestry during the season.

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



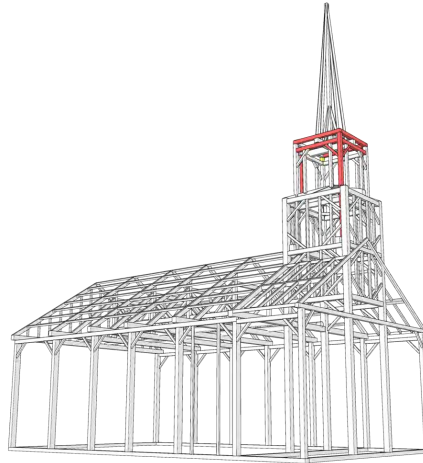
Current Food Pantry needs:

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



Drawings by Preservation Timber Framing Inc.

Meetinghouse Preservation Project

Great news! Our project is on track and ready to jump to the next phase!

The new information brochure and pledge cards are almost ready from the printer. We are excited to share them with you!

The group of folks who will be Visitors have had a training session with our consultants, Rev. Dave and Pat Williams, and were commissioned during our worship service on 6/23/19.

Over the next three months, our Visitors will be calling upon most of our members and friends to request a visit: to sit down one-to-one to review the project plan, to discuss any questions or concerns and to emphasize the importance of giving generously to this project by providing a pledge card, with encouragement to consider a strong three-year pledge to support the process of getting this goal accomplished!

Please accept the task as an opportunity to truly connect – with each other and with this wonderful project, and to take pride in your participation as you watch the church building transform over the next three years from its current state into a beauty to be preserved for our community and our future generations. It does take a village.....

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Rockwell, Chair, Executive Committee, Meetinghouse Preservation Project

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN CHESTER; 1819-1942

The First Regular Baptist Society of Chester was incorporated as a church on June 30, 1819. The denomination had first been seen in N.H. in the town of Newton in 1755, with a Missionary-Evangelist, Rev. John Peak, preaching in many places and baptizing many adults. There were three kinds of Baptists in Chester, 'Regular', 'Free Will,' and 'Calvin', but only 'Regular' Baptists became a Chester church. The initial group first met for Worship in members' homes and then in the ballroom of Richardson's Tavern. They paid \$5.00 per Sunday for a traveling Baptist minister to preach, and different members provided him board and room.

In 1723, the church was outgrowing the Tavern, and members purchased an acre of land on Haverhill Rd. & built a Meetinghouse that was 52' x 42' and was described as "stately". Later they built a parsonage across the street.

In 1840 there was a major conflict within the church about the conduct of its Pastor, with one side supporting him, and one side thinking him corrupt. The two sides couldn't function together, causing the church to stand empty for five years!

In 1846 the **Baptist District Association** sent 4 clergymen to help with reconciliation, and the few remaining members (15) took their advice, reorganized the church, and hired a Pastor who served for five years of growth. In the years before the Civil War, Baptists invited abolitionists to preach on more than one occasion, and this was while the Dartmouth faculty was still interpreting scripture as supporting slavery!

In 1860, church members decided to relocate to gain visibility, found an ideal site on the Chester Common & built a smaller meetinghouse. The church grew & prospered in the years afterwards. But on Sunday, Jan. 30, 1876, soon after Worship, the Congregational Church bell was ringing because the Baptist church was on fire! A group of men saved the pulpit, but almost all else was lost. They immediately voted to rebuild, and to accept the invitation to worship in the Congregational Vestry until their new meetinghouse was ready. The Baptist Women's Circle and the Chester Town Band gave a series of entertainments to raise funds to build it, which took only 18 months.

In 1877 one of the first sightings of Santa Claus in Chester was at one of these events. In 1884, church members voted against using fermented wine in communion services; so it would be only grape juice from then on.

In 1886, with help from the Ladies' Circle, a Vestry was built in the Basement that included a kitchen & parlor. Two special theme suppers were put on by the Baptist Women: a "C Supper", where all food served began with a 'C', and a "Penny Supper" where each item (fork, napkin, vegetable, etc. etc. etc.) cost one penny.

In 1888, the church had grown so much that two Sunday services were needed! it continued to grow through the 1890's. But In the early 1900's they began to need extra financial support, and **The N.H. Baptist office** began to send them \$200.00 a year to help meet their Pastor's salary. The salary for their Pastor in 1901/1902 was not high enough to support a family, so their Pastor took a second job as the coach of the Pinkerton football team!

In 1904, **Stevens Memorial Hall** was built 3 feet in front of the church entry, blocking the view of the church from Chester St. and this seemed to have a negative effect on the number of members. Despite this, they continued to pass on the word of Christ as they understood its effect on themselves and others. They sent word to their congressman that they favored complete prohibition of the manufacture, sale & consumption of all alcohol, and they also voted that "no one would be permitted to join the church who wasn't willing to give up dancing". They also continued to be inclusive in ways that other churches weren't.

Continued on next page...

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN CHESTER; **1819-1942**

(continued from previous page)

In 1918, when their church was 100 years old, they elected their first Deaconess, and in 1921 they voted for Mrs. Mary Morse to be their Pastor and she served for two years, long before most churches would even consider a woman as a Pastor! They had received several generous gifts over the early 1900's, including a building to be used as a Parsonage that they received in 1914 from Mr. and Mrs. John West II, and some special pledges helped them stay open in 1934 and 1935.

But in December, 1935, they voted to close the church until April, when they voted to stay closed until September. Then the small number remaining voted to close permanently unless the Congregational Minister was on vacation. The Congregational Church invited them to attend their Annual Meeting as their guests, which they did in March, 1937. Afterwards, the Congregational Clerk, Walter Lane, said "The meeting was marked by the feeling of good fellowship between these two societies."

In September, 1937, it was voted to turn off the electricity to their church, and in 1938 the Horse Sheds were torn down and the piano was sold to the Congregational Church for \$1.00.

In October, 1941, a committee of 5 Baptists was chosen to meet with a delegation from the Congregational Church to plan how to form a union.

On March 7, 1942, Articles of Agreement were signed by members representing both churches.

** Between 1819 & 1942, records show the church had a total of 52 Pastors, not counting all who came for one Sunday only.*

Summarized by Joanne Millsaps from texts by R. Holmes & B. Chase



Chester Congregational Baptist Church

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 9:30am church service in Chester, Pastor Ruth preaching	8	9	10 6:30pm BORF meeting	11	12	13
14 9:30am church service in Chester, Pastor Ruth preaching	15	16	17 6:30pm Meetinghouse Preservation Project-EC meeting	18	19	20
21 9:30am church service in Auburn, Pastor Linda preaching	22	23	24	25	26	27 9am to noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
28 9:30am church service in Auburn, Pastor Linda preaching	29	30	31	<div> Sunday Church Services: *9:30am Worship in July *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month* </div>		

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

August 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	5	6	7 10am FIGGs meeting 6:30pm BORF meeting	8	9	10
11 10am Deacons' meeting	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 6:30pm Meetinghouse Preservation Project-EC meeting	22	23	24 9am to noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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

Worship Service

July Worship 9:30am

August 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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Church Website: chesternhchurch.org