



# Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

*Catch the Spirit*  
*September, 2019*

## *Upcoming Events*

***Monday, September 2nd***  
Labor Day

***Saturday, September 7th***  
Chester Town Fair

***Saturday, September 14th***  
Taste of the Garden ~ Open House ~ 2-4pm

***Sunday, October 6th***  
World Communion Sunday  
Neighbors in Need and World Mission Offering



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

## *lines from linda,*

*Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary. (Isaiah 40:28-31CEB)*

Where did the summer go? It seems as though school just got out for the summer and now it is already in session again. July and August flew by and many of us did not do all that we thought we would accomplish. While fall does not officially start until later in September, the routines and activities and structures that go along with this time of year are in full swing.

As the church enters the fall season, the we will still be working on raising money for the Meetinghouse Preservation Project through pledges. Visits will be ongoing and take time. This is a huge project and the fund raising will not be accomplished overnight or even in a few months. During the summer people began making visits and so far the feedback is positive. Relationships are building or strengthening. As in most projects there is excitement in the beginning, but as time moves along there will be some difficulties. Energy may wane and we may grow weary. We will celebrate successes, but may stumble over obstacles. The tasks may feel overwhelming as we wonder whether or not we can really do this.

Now this may sound like I am being a pessimist, but I am not. For I do see a lot of people giving time, energy, hard work, and even doing things out of their comfort zones. I am continually amazed by the amount of work that is being done in spite of the size of this church. Throughout this entire project, whether there are struggles or successes, I see this passage as one that is encouraging to all. It is when we recognize the hope that we find through God that we can have the strength to stretch when we think we reached our limits. God does not grow weary even when we do.

While I see God as the primary source of our encouragement, we cannot forget to encourage and lift up each other. I believe that God works through us to help each other. In the days and weeks ahead as we work together may our strength be renewed by God.

*Shalom,*

*Pastor Linda*



**Lillian Arthur**

**JB**

**Matthew Cicero**, Lynn Rockwell's nephew

**Colman Family**: John, Nancy (wife), Nancy (sister), Elizabeth (sister), Mike (nephew) and Steven (brother)

**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

**Kathy Dupras**

**JJ Finney**

**Steve Hebert**

**Hayden Lane**

**John Lighthall**

**Janet MacGray**

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

**Cliff Millsaps**

**Shirley Pike**

**Brenda Price**

**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

**John Ward**, Dot Avery's brother

**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...**

**Anita Brown**, Don Brown's mother, who died on July 9<sup>th</sup>

**Rosemary Nicoll**, Lisa Oleson's mother, who passed away on July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC** in Auburn and family and friends of their Music Director **Jeremy Lajoie** who passed away suddenly on August 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Robert Pike** who passed away on August 4<sup>th</sup>

**Ben Whitehill**, Becky Hanna's cousin's son, who died on August 4<sup>th</sup>



## BOARD MEETINGS

### **Upcoming Board Meetings:**

**BORF** – No meeting in September

**Deacons** – Sunday, September 8th at 11:00am

**Meetinghouse Preservation Project EC—**  
Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30pm

**Cabinet**—TBD



Melissa and Allan  
Grondin welcome  
their first child

**Alex Robert!**

Born Tuesday,  
August 27<sup>th</sup>  
at 8:38am

21" long and 8lb 11oz

Grandparents are  
Bruce and Cindy McLaughlin



### **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!



### **Chester Town Fair** **Saturday, September 7th**

Please stop by and visit us at our booth at the Town Fair. If you would like to volunteer at the booth, please contact Linda Noyes to see how you can help out.



### **NHCUCC Women's Fellowship Retreat** **"The Story of You"** **Friday & Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** **Camp Sentinel, Center Tuftonboro, NH**

Retreat Leaders are the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, a Veriditas Labyrinth Facilitator and Liz Greenberg, LICSW, A SoulCollage® Facilitator.

Cost of the retreat is \$80 before September 10<sup>th</sup> and \$90 after September 10<sup>th</sup>, which includes three meals, waterfront activities, lodging, retreat materials, and worship. Make checks payable to NHCUCC Women's Fellowship and send to : Trudie Bergeron, 46 Nantucket Place, Greenland, NH 03840. For more information please email Trudie at [Trudieglenn@yahoo.com](mailto:Trudieglenn@yahoo.com).



### **Christmas in the Village** **Saturday, December 7th**

Now that the weather is cooling down, time to take out your knitting needles. We need scarves and hats for the fair. If you would like to learn contact Deb Field, at 603-489-8144, or email at [debfield@gsinet.net](mailto:debfield@gsinet.net) We have needles, patterns and yarn available. We even have empty bins to fill our treasures with.





### **FALL 2019 BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS**

Afternoon: Mondays, 1:00 to 2:30 pm, September 23 to November 4  
(We will not meet on Columbus Day)

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

Evening: Tuesdays, 5:30 to 7:00 pm, September 24 to October 29  
Or

Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 pm, September 25 to October 30

Location: 4 Alumni Drive, Exeter, NH (New Office Space of RVNA & Hospice)

*These six-week interactive support groups will explore the grieving process and provide an opportunity for members to meet in a safe, supportive environment and share with others who are coping with the loss of a loved one.*

Monthly Drop-In Grief Support Group also available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month from 3-4:30 pm at Epping Regional Health Center. Groups are free and open to the public. Minimum enrollment is 4 participants. To register, please call Jane Oldfield-Spearman or Martha Carlson at: 603-772-2981



### **Fall 2019 Hospice Volunteer Training**

It's time to pre-register for our upcoming new volunteer spring training session. Hospice Volunteers play an indispensable role with patients with life-threatening illnesses, providing companionship, support, and respite for families. Volunteers become part of a team effort, which includes physicians, nurses, social workers, clergy and other professionals. Interested individuals, who embrace the caring philosophy when assisting people with life-threatening illness, are encouraged to explore Hospice Volunteering.

#### **Training location, dates and times:**

Training will be held on Tuesday's 6:00pm to 8:30pm, September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 2019. (With Tuesday November 5th reserved as a makeup date if needed).

Training will be held at VNA Hospice 1070 Holt Ave, Manchester, NH. Call or email Susan Jutrus for more information at 603-663-4008 [sjutras@elliott-hs.org](mailto:sjutras@elliott-hs.org).



### **Volunteer Drivers and ~ Caregivers Needed**

Volunteer Drivers from the towns of Chester, Hampstead, Sandown, and Danville are needed to assist local homebound residents. Volunteer drivers make a huge difference by providing rides to local medical appointments whether they provide a ride once a month or once a week.

Opportunities are available based on the volunteer's preferences and schedule. For every new driver, Caregivers can help three new members from the community.

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry, through a volunteer network, assists the elderly and disabled with services such as; friendly visiting, grocery shopping, light chores, home repair and maintenance, and medical transportation. Services offered through Caregivers are vitally important as they allow individuals to maintain independence in the community and home environment. All services are free of charge.

We also currently have many other specific volunteer opportunities available for volunteers of all ages. Please visit our website for a complete list: [www.comcaregivers.org](http://www.comcaregivers.org).

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or for more information about Caregiver services, donating to the program, or our free Loaner's Closet for medical equipment, please call Susanne Peace at 432-0877 ext. 2.

# Taste of the Garden



# Open House

Please join us in the Church Vestry for a complimentary tasting of delicious recipes using our bountiful garden harvest.

**Saturday,**  
**September 14th**  
**2:00-4:00 pm**



Chester Congregational Baptist Church  
4 Chester Street, Chester NH  
887-4799





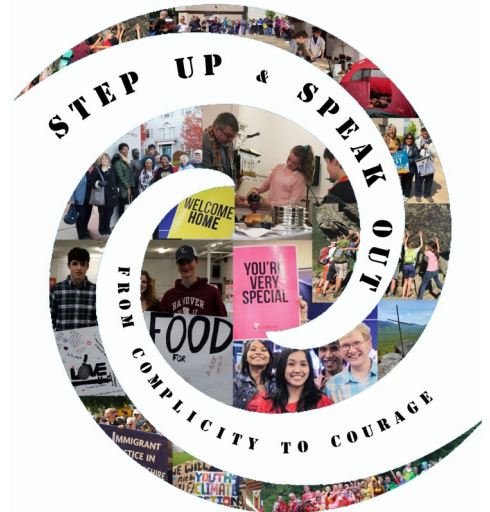
## **Official Call to the 2019 Annual Meeting New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ**

Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead... for God goes with you.

(An adaptation of Deuteronomy 31: 6-7)

Dear Members of the New Hampshire Conference Family,

The members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee invite you to come together, as the Gathered Conference, for the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. Here is what you need to know:



**What:** The 218th Annual Meeting of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ

**When:** Saturday, October 19, 2019

**Where:** Grappone Conference Center 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH

**THEME:** The theme of our meeting this year is, “Step Up, Speak Out – from Complicity to Courage”. The theme will be unpacked as we explore an adaptation of Deuteronomy 31:6-7, “Be strong, bold, and courageous as you lead...for God goes with you.”

**FEATURED SPEAKER:** The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries of The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO., will share reflections on her life work and focus on communal resistance to systemic injustice.

**WORSHIP:** Worship will not be “the thing we do to break up the business.” Rather the liturgy of worship will guide and sustain the substance and structure of our time together as the Gathered Conference. As we celebrate past achievements, confess brokenness, and consider the shape, scope and substance of our blessed Conference ministries for the future, we will be doing so as a gathered body in worship. At the heart of our worship we will hear reflections by Rev. Blackmon; and personal stories from the Rev. Eric Jackson, President, Manchester NAACP; Kristin Forselius, Director of Education and Faith Formation at the Community Church of Durham; and a representative of the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group of the New Hampshire Conference .

**REGISTRATION:** Please visit [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org) for up-to-date Annual Meeting Resource Materials and a link to the registration website. For registrations processed on or before Wednesday, October 9 th at 11:59 pm, when online registration officially closes. Delegates & Visitors will be \$85.00/person. Major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted for online registration. Registrations processed after the close of online registration will be taken on the day of the event, at the “walk-in” rates of \$50.00 per youth delegate, and \$110 for all others. For walk-in registrations, cash or check will be accepted (sorry, no credit cards).

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Linda.



Schools have opened their doors and thankfully the weather is cooling a bit. Fall is marching toward us. But first we will be setting up a booth at the Chester Town Fair, an opportunity to share the "Meetinghouse Preservation Project."

Pastor Linda will be attending a Clergy Convocation with the NH Conference UCC in Biddeford Pool, Maine on September 16-18. "Come enjoy rest, rejuvenation and reflection with colleagues by the sea." We wish her a restful time!

On August 3, Teresa led a birdfeeder workshop in the Vestry, 6 children attended and they all left with completed birdfeeders. The children had a great time and enjoyed their ice cream sundaes. We are planning an adult woodworking workshop in the fall, again led by Teresa.

If you know someone who needs assistance, please contact Deacon of the Month Teresa Rogers for September. The Deacons have a discretionary Fund that is available. Prayer shawls are available also.

Thank you to Judy and Mel Balk for continually providing flowers for our worship. As the Meetinghouse Preservation project is underway, please keep in prayer those who are visiting and those who are being visited.

Enjoy the pleasant weather and hope to see you at worship!

*Submitted by Deb Field*

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





## **Briefing from the BORF**

As the summer season begins to wind down and autumn is just around the corner, the BORF continues to meet at least monthly as we have many projects and issues that we must address. We do want to thank all those who have helped throughout the summer months to resolve some of our “task list” issues. If you would like to take ownership of a task or project, one we have identified or something you feel you could help with, please see a member of the BORF and we would be very happy to discuss it with you!

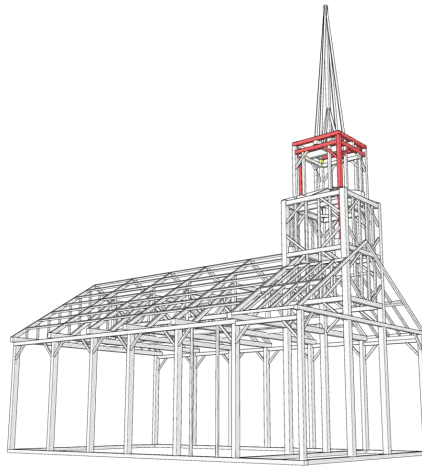
There were other projects that the BORF addressed over the summer months.

- Controlling the weeds and growth on the 102 side of the Church until we get these areas professionally cleaned up, loamed, and seeded this fall.
- Working on identifying and solving issues with the sound system. This has been relatively successful with some innovative ideas and “trial and error” activities!
- Working diligently with the Meetinghouse Preservation Project Executive Committee to insure that we are all following the proper financial and budgetary requirements.
- Working with Arron Sturgis from Preservation Timber Framing to set a schedule to get the steeple stabilization work done that could not be accomplished due to weather last year. We are hopeful that this work will be done by early autumn.

As always, the BORF would like to thank all who graciously continue to contribute all their gifts and talents! We will be scheduling work days during the coming months to clean up and prepare the properties for the cold weather season. Please consider what you could do to help as many hands make these tasks much lighter...and a lot more fun! If you are not able to do an outside task, there are several indoor tasks that could be scheduled along with the outdoor work.

*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.*



Drawings by Preservation Timber Framing Inc.

## **Meetinghouse Preservation Project News**

We have been making tremendous progress behind the scenes this summer. Now it is time to get very PUBLIC about it! Let's SHOUT about it! Help us by talking to others about the project and spreading the word to all that may hear – we **WILL** make our goal with the help of everyone in the community! We are reaching out to the media to get our story out there in multiple ways, so stay tuned!

At the Town Fair on Sat. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, we will have a big blown-up poster display of the interior of our beautiful brochure that we have been using to describe the project, and will have church members on hand to “talk it up” and answer questions. Please participate!

Visits to members and friends have been continuing all summer and will continue through September -- telling the story and requesting pledged support. Please open your doors and hearts to this process! If you a “visitor”, please continue to turn in your information sheets to Mary Hamblett. If you have been “visited”, please turn in your pledge cards to the church office, and **THANK YOU!** If you have not yet been visited and would like to be, please speak up!

**SAVE THE DATE** of Sat., October 26<sup>th</sup> for our special Evening of Dinner and Sharing at the Senior Café at Pinkerton Academy, 5:30 – 8:00 pm. At this event, we will announce how close to our \$\$ goal we are, and give folks the opportunity to help us to take it over the top! This is an important event in this capital campaign, and we will invite many people and press.

*Submitted by Lynn Rockwell*

## **SOME NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH**

To have a covenant relationship with the wider church seems especially reassuring for us during a time when our small rural church has to focus on an urgent matter of 'home maintenance' in order to protect and preserve the historical Meetinghouse that past generations of good stewards created and left in our care. The news from the wider church reassures us that during this time of increasing fear and suffering and hate that threatens the wellbeing and even the future form of God's beloved world, there are many, many people of our faith (together with those of other faiths and of no formal faith) who are confronting the causes of suffering and working to create ways of living that reflect the ways we learned from Jesus in Sunday School when we were children. We also can rejoice when we hear about others who are working to help and heal all who suffer, regardless of their status in the world. We can feel a little more hopeful for everyone's children and grandchildren when we hear about what some in the wider church are doing to heal and protect the air, land and waters around us. In the conversations we held in the Vestry months ago, we shared our hopes for reaching out to the world with more energy in the future. We can be reassured that those in the wider church will welcome our helping as we are able now, and with greater energy when our present work to protect and preserve our Meetinghouse has been completed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

There will be a regional ***Ukama Pot Luck Supper*** at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Brentwood on Thursday evening, September 12th, and anyone who would like to hear about ways to re-energize our Ukama relationship with our sister church in Zimbabwe is invited to attend and meet with others who are in active partnerships.

***The Neighbors in Need Offering*** for the UCC and the ***World Mission Offering*** for the AVC will be received on October 6th and is an opportunity to help those who are suffering from injustice.

Young people from around the world will be conducting a world-wide ***Youth Climate Strike on September 20th***. Near us it will be held in Concord and Portsmouth. The UCC is a co-sponsor of this event to promote care for God's world, and to show support for young people who are demanding "the right to a future". It's organized by young people but all people age 7 to 77 (and more) are welcome.

***The Annual Meeting of the N.H. Conference, UCC will be on Saturday, October 19th in Concord.*** In addition to the business meeting, Rev. Traci Blackmon, Assoc. General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries will speak about her work in the area of communal resistance to systemic injustice. The theme for the day will be ***"Step Up, Speak Out—from Complicity to Courage"***. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to attend as a Visitor. The Pastor and Delegates may vote at the business meeting.

*Submitted by Joanne Millsaps*





## **2019 Church Vegetable Garden – End of Summer update**

The summer weather this season was very good for gardens (though a little too hot for the gardeners) and we were able to provide an abundance of produce to share with the Church and community!

If anything was challenging....it was the choice of some of the tomato plants this year! An heirloom Roma type called “Amish Paste” was recommended and proved to be very unruly and not quite compatible with our small raised bed configurations! They grew to about 8 feet tall and totally took over the paths etc. There was no stopping them other than some pretty severe trimmings! The fruit is very large (and rather ugly) but perhaps will make good bruschetta or maybe a pasta sauce. All I can say is that I am NOT going to plant these again next year!!! We will find a standard paste Roma that is a little better behaved!

We have also decided to repeat the “Taste of the Garden” that we started last year! It was a very nice event even though not as well attended as we would have liked! We are hoping that with less competition in town and more advertising that we can draw a larger crowd who would like to sample some delicious bites prepared with our veggies! We could use help from anyone who could prepare a dish or dessert and we will provide the vegetables. We also encourage all members and friends to attend this to support the effort and to be available to interact with other guests as many of us “garden folk” will be busy serving and refreshing the food. Please feel free to contact me if you could help!

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

## September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 	3	4	5	6	7 Chester Town Fair
8 11am Deacons' meeting	9	10	11 6:30pm Meetinghouse EC meeting	12	13	14 2-4pm Taste of the Garden
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Clergy Convocation						
22	23 	24	25	26	27	28 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
29	30	Sunday Church Service: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*				



**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](mailto:chesternhpastor@mygsc.com)

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

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

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