



# Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

*Catch the Spirit*

*October, 2019*

## *Upcoming Events*

**Sunday, October 6th**

World Communion Sunday  
Neighbors in Need and World Mission Offerings

**Saturday, October 19th**

NHCUCC Annual Meeting

**Saturday, October 26th**

Meetinghouse Preservation Project Dinner

**Thursday, October 31st**

Happy Halloween!

**Saturday, November 2nd**

8am to noon ~ Church Work Day  
Rain dates is Saturday, November 9th



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

## *lines from linda,*

*26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27 NRSV)*

October is an interesting month. As the colorful leaves are falling, the colorful creative scarecrows are dotting the landscape of the town of Chester. The descending leaves, shrinking daylight, and cooler temperatures indicate that summer season is over. In the midst of these changes, I find that October is a busy month for the town and the church. The calendar is full.

In terms of the Meetinghouse Preservation Project, October will be a time of continuing to make visits to prospective donors. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating the transition of extending the range of visits from primarily church people to the wider community and businesses with a “Kick-Off” dinner. While the dinner is an event on the calendar, there is still a lot of work going on behind the scenes. All those who are making this project a reality deserve a great deal of thanks as well as encouragement and prayer to continue to this enormous task.

The New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ has at least 2 activities during October which involve this church. On October 6<sup>th</sup> delegates will be attending a meeting and Ecclesiastical Council for the Rockingham Association. Then on October 19<sup>th</sup> they will be gathering at the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting.

In the midst of all the meetings and preparations for things such as scarecrows and Halloween. We often forget or neglect a movement that shook Christianity to its core. At the end of this month we will be remembering the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther proposed that his 95 theses be discussed in Wittenberg, Germany. His objective was to tackle some of the problems within the church and reform the church from within. One objective was to have the Bible translated into German, the language of the people. There were others who had concerns about the church and some of its practices. They also became activists at this time and in the next century or so. Martin Luther never expected to be a part of what we call the Protestant Reformation, one of the major upheavals in the history of the church.

Martin Luther's act on that October day changed history and we would not be celebrating God through this church if not for the actions, ideas, faith, and sacrifices of Martin Luther and many others. They changed the face of the Christian religion during the 1500's and today we are dealing with change in the local and wider church. Just as the disciples and the reformers were led by the Spirit, may we be led by that same Spirit in all our decisions .

*Shalom,*

*Pastor Linda*

## CALL ON HIS NAME



## BOARD MEETINGS

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

#### Meetinghouse Preservation Project EC—

Wednesday, October 2nd at 6:30pm

BORF – Wednesday, October 9th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, October 13th at 11:00am

Cabinet—TBD



***The Oct-Nov-Dec copy of  
These Days is now available  
in the Narthex.***

*These days has been the concrete expression of  
the church's witness to the love of Jesus Christ  
to the world for more than three decades.*

Featuring daily meditations and devotions  
wonderfully written by clergy and lay leaders,  
These Days continues to be the source of  
comfort and hope throughout the world and has  
been for thirty-five years.



### 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:



**Lillian Arthur**  
**JB**

**Erica Bob**, she is friend/colleague of Deb  
Field's daughter Brittany. She lost her mother  
tragically on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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**

**Peggy Elliott**, Mike Elliott's mother

**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...

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

**Sandra Bouldry** who died on September 20<sup>th</sup>

## Here's what's happening!

### New England Meetinghouses Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

Matthew Thomas will be giving talk on New England Meetinghouses at Stevens Hall. This is a free event being paid by the Chester Historical Society. He will include Chester's Congregational/Baptist Meetinghouse as one of the standing icons in NE. Mr. Thomas is the author of 15 published history books on local & regional New England history. He attended William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia where he studied Architecture & Archaeology. He is a respected authority on various aspects of early New England history and has given hundreds of lectures throughout the Northeast during the past 45 years. Mr. Thomas serves currently as the President of the Fremont Historical Society and is a charter member of the Civil War Roundtable of NH, and a member of the Organization of American Historians.



### Sunday, October 6th World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need and World Missions Offerings

### Rockingham Association Meeting Sunday, October 6th at 1:30pm

The Fall Meeting of the Rockingham Association will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at The United Church of Christ of North Hampton, 295 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton. At 3:00pm they will gather in an Ecclesiastical Council to examine Ms. Alexis Simpson, a Member in Discernment, who is preparing for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ, also at The United Church of Christ of North Hampton.



Work Day

### Church Work Day Saturday, November 2nd 8:00am to noon Rain date is Saturday, November 9th



***The Taste of the Garden Open House was held on Saturday afternoon, September 14th in the Vestry. Folks prepared dishes that included vegetables grown in the garden.***



## **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 New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ

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

**Where:** Grappone Conference Center 70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH 03301

**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 .

**OFFERING:** An offering will be received during morning worship for the support of many ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. We encourage churches to send a special offering with your delegates.

*Continued on next page...*

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**DELEGATES:** The Conference Bylaws define the voting membership as "those delegates duly appointed by the churches, the Conference officers, members of the Board of Directors, and each ordained, licensed, or commissioned minister with standing in a New Hampshire Association." (Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2). Each church shall be entitled to four (4) lay delegates, one (1) of whom shall be under twenty-five (25) years of age at the date of election. Churches with more than one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate for each one hundred (100) additional members or major fraction thereof."

**VISITORS:** Visitors are welcomed and strongly encouraged as a means of deepening the covenant that our congregations share in the NH Conference and the United Church of Christ.

**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 – which officially opens on Monday, August 26th. For registrations processed on or before Wednesday, October 9th at 11:59 pm, when online registration officially closes, the Youth Delegate Rate will be \$50/person; Retired Clergy and Retired Clergy Spouse/Partners will be \$65/person; and 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 do not have access to the internet or have any trouble registering yourself, please call Cindy Bradley at 888-642-8229, ext. 1100 (Monday – Friday / 10am-3pm / August 26-October 9).

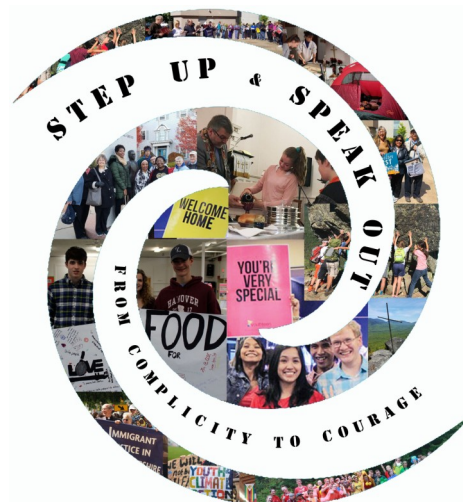
**ACCESSIBILITY:** The Grappone Conference Center is an accessible facility with parking near the main entrance. Denise Gracia, CART Captioner, will be participating in this year's meeting, for the benefit of our hearing impaired delegates.

Please feel free to contact the Conference Office with any questions regarding the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you on October 19th!

May God's Peace be with you.

Your 2019 Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Laura Seigny (Chair), Neal Cass, Rev. Gail Doktor, Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Carolyn Keilig, Rev. Deborah Knowlton, Rev. Dr. Robert Marrone, Marcie Miller, Rev. Gordon Rankin, Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg.

Staff to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee: Cindy Bradley, Ann Desrochers







## **Briefing from the BORF**

As the leaves on the beautiful sugar maples begin to turn their brilliant reds and golds and the scarecrows make their annual appearance, the BORF begins the effort and communication necessary to prepare our buildings and grounds for the coming seasons. We have large properties with lots of trees and leaves that will require some Saturday outdoor work day(s). The first is planned for November 2<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of November 9<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on helping if you are able as more hands make the work lighter for all! If you are not able to do the heavier outside work, there will also be scheduled work days to take care of some inside projects that need to be done. These projects are able to be organized outside of the scheduled Saturday work days. If you have an inside project that you would like to bring to the BORF, or lead yourself, please see Jean Gagnon.

Other projects that the BORF addressed were the cleanup and seeding of the area along 102 where trees were removed. The grass seems to be coming in nicely and this will certainly improve this part of the church yard! We also have scheduled Arron Sturgis from Preservation Timber Framing to do some steeple stabilization work in October that was not able to get done last year due to weather issues.

As always, the BORF would like to thank all who graciously continue to contribute all their gifts and talents to help whenever the need arises.

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.*





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

By all accounts, the 2019 church vegetable garden season was extremely successful with a wonderful harvest that was enjoyed by the Church, Food Pantry, and community at large! We also found produce on the bench that was shared by other area gardeners which was a wonderful and appreciated gesture!

While there were some challenges, we found solutions to them and, as always, learned what we will do differently next year to continually improve our harvest! The second annual “Taste of the Garden” was also deemed a success with more than twice the attendance of the previous year. The food prepared by several diligent and creative cooks was absolutely delicious and the presentation was beautiful and I want to thank all who helped with this outreach!

I also personally made a new friend in Chester named Maria and we shared stories and recipes and “face-timed” with her disabled mother in Massachusetts (who was a big fan of our Swiss chard). These types of interactions are what make this effort and work worthwhile for the gardeners.

Now that the season is done, we will be looking for help in breaking down and cleaning up all the beds to prepare them for next seasons planting. Be on the lookout for an email blast that will communicate a Saturday in October when we plan on doing this. If you enjoyed the fruits of our labors...we could really use your help!

Thank You!

*Submitted by Donna Foote*



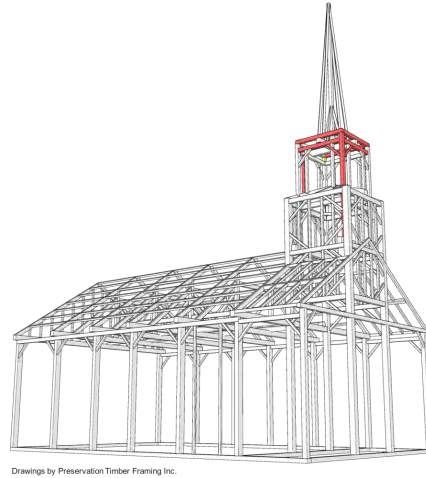
### **Current Food Pantry needs:**

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*



### **Meetinghouse Preservation Project**

October is here! This is the pivotal month for the fundraising phase of this capital campaign! Nearly 200 invitations have gone out to members and friends in the community for the Special Dinner on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Pinkerton Academy. There is no charge for this meal, and your participation matters! **Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** This will be a wonderful evening of information and sharing all about the project, with keynote speaker Arron Sturgis of Preservation Timber Framing, Inc.

At this dinner, we will reveal how close we are to our \$\$ goal!! If you have not yet pledged your financial support to this project, please turn in your pledge card and donation within the next few weeks to be included in the acknowledgments and to help us reach our goal. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office ASAP. There will also be pledge cards and information brochures at the dinner and the opportunity to help us “take it over the top” !!

We are on the front page of the Tri-Town News! Our project is featured this week, and includes a lot of information for the public to hear about what is needed. Our scarecrow out front represents Arron working on it, with a sign “Let’s Get Started” and with a big banner displaying “Meetinghouse Preservation Project -- [www.chesternhchurch.org](http://www.chesternhchurch.org)”. We are thrilled to be prominently displayed and sincerely hope that many will go on our website and hit the “DONATE” button! When Chronicle comes to town next week to feature the 1000 scarecrows of Chester, we hope for even wider publicity!

Please tell your neighbors and friends how important it is to repair and preserve our historic building. It really will take a Village to do this, and it can be done! Thank you!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Rockwell, Chair, Meetinghouse Preservation Project*

# Chester Congregational Baptist Church

## October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday Church Service:</b> *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*		1	2 6:30pm Meetinghouse Preservation Project- EC meeting	3	4	5
6 1:30pm Rockingham Assoc.mtg. 	7	8	9 6:30pm BORF meeting	10	11	12
13 11:00am Deacons' meeting	14 	15	16	17	18	19 NHCUCC Annual meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry 5:30-8:00pm Meetinghouse Preservation Dinner
27	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween! 		



**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)