



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

January & February 2020

Upcoming Events

Epiphany

Monday, January 6th

Annual Reports Due to Church Office

Thursday, January 16th

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2nd

The Rev. Gordon Rankin, NHCUCC Conference Minister

Worship, Sunday, February 9th

Happy Valentine's Day

Friday, February 14th

Prepared to Serve - NHCUCC

Saturday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 26th



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

Lines from Linda,

⁹When they [the wise men from the East] had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11 NRSV)

In some ways Epiphany on January 6 marks the end of the Christmas season with the wise men visiting Jesus and bringing gifts to the child. Our celebrations and gift giving are finished. The trees and lights and decorations are put away for another year. We struggle to see if we spent too much or ate too much between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Yet it really is not the end, it is the beginning. God came into the world in a new way then and God still comes to us today. Hopefully we think and act differently today because of the way God touched the world with this tiny child. God brought change into the world.

Change can be good and it can be something with which we struggle. Since this is a beginning of a new decade, I thought I would check out what did not exist before 2010, but might be something that is important to us, or at least the younger generations. First of all, many of you know that I use an iPad more than my computer. Steve Jobs introduced the first iPad in January of 2010. If we were to look at Apple, we would find that Siri, AirPods, and the Apple watch were introduced after 2010. This is not a Apple ad, so what else has become fairly common in the last decade? A sampling would include Fitbits, Android phones, Netflix original movies, Pinterest, Minecraft, Google Drive, Facebook Messenger App, Uber, GoFundMe and created in 2015, Starbucks pumpkin lattes. There are also new jobs that did not exist in 2010. They include Zumba Instructor, Telemedicine Physician, Podcast Producer, Social Media Manager, and Driverless Car Engineer. These are just two short lists and if you don't know understand any items on the list simply ask a teenager. Not all these things are just for teenagers. Also, while some of them are more helpful than others, many of them affect the way we communicate with each other in today's world. Many of these are part of the common language of today. The point of this list is not to promote the technological advances, but to remind us that there is change in the world.

The wider world is not the only place where we experience change. When we look at the church change is happening. There is unexpected change in our own church. When I started 3 years ago, no one imagined that we would have to raise \$450,000 in order to preserve the building. We already have more than two-thirds of that in hand or pledged. A church working together can do great things. Three years ago our main sources of music were the choir, the organist, and the hymnbook. Now a drumset, keyboard, and amps for guitars are fixtures at the front of the church. No one imagined a band playing in the church in addition to our traditional music. Change happens and is inevitable. At times it happens rapidly, but sometimes it comes much more slowly.

There is hope in the world because of the change God brought through Jesus. As we start the new year may we see the beginning of hope that comes through the birth of this child and not simply see it as the end of Christmas. May we see hope in God's love that to us because of the birth of a baby.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



Lillian Arthur

JB

Kimberly Baviro, former director of The Upper Room, friend of Esther Connelly

Dan Barter

Jim Brown, friend of Pauline Hoyt

Matthew Cicero, Lynn Rockwell's nephew

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

James Cooney, friend of Mike Elliott

Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's step father

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Mike Elliott

Peggy Elliott, Mike Elliott's mother

JJ Finney

Steve Hebert

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Janet MacGray

Sandy McKay

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family members

Cliff Millsaps

Shirley Pike

Brenda Price

Elaine Scott, Paul's mother

Sally St. Clair

Phil Streeter

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

Jack and Joan Towle, Colleen Towle's brother and 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

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

Dale and Laurie Edwards, ABC VNH Region Minister, as their daughter's husband's father died very unexpectedly

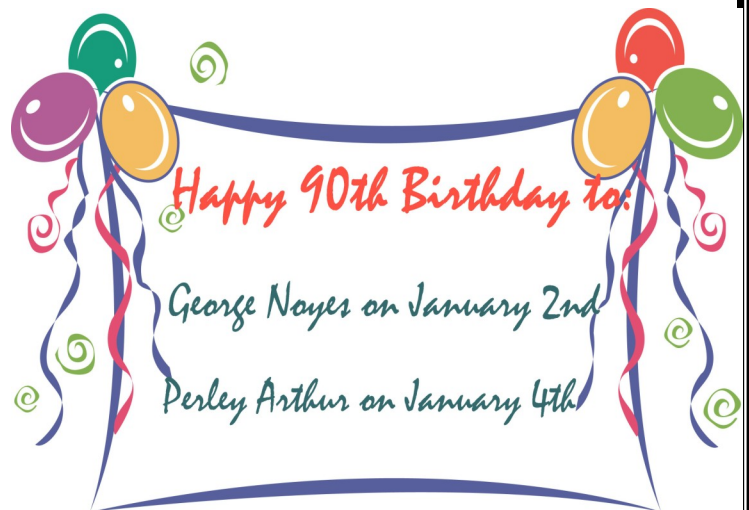


Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesdays, January 8th and February 5th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, January 12th at 11:00am

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 2nd at 11:00am



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:





ROCKINGHAM VNA & HOSPICE

an exeter health resource

| The Art of Wellness

Monthly Afternoon Drop-In Grief Support Group **The 3rd Monday of every month 3:00-4:30 pm**

Location: Epping Regional Health Center, 212 Calef Highway (Route 125) Epping. Use Exit 7 from Route 101 and turn north on Route 125. Located approximately 250 yards north of the traffic signal at the intersection of Routes 27 and 125.

This drop-in bereavement group is for those interested in exploring the grieving process in a safe, supportive environment. Sessions are free and participants are not expected to make a commitment to attend on a regular basis. Rockingham VNA & Hospice also offers weekly support groups that meet for 6-week sessions in the fall, winter, and spring.

For more information call: Jane Oldfield-Spearman or Martha Carlson at 603-772-2981.

NH Gay Men's Chorus

Saturday, January 18th at 6:00pm
Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service
First Baptist Church, Nashua
Gay Men's Chorus will be performing during the service



The Annual Church meeting is on Sunday, February 2nd. A light lunch will be served in the vestry prior to the meeting. All annual reports from boards and committees are due to the church office by Thursday, January 16th. I plan to have the annual report available on Sunday, January 26th.

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry
15th Annual Potter's Bowl
Saturday, February 1st from 5-8pm

On Saturday, February 1st, Community Caregivers of Greater Derry is hosting their 15th Annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser from 5-8PM at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria in Derry, NH. Included in the \$40 ticket price, patrons are able to pick a handcrafted pottery bowl donated by NH professional and student artists, and enjoy a dozen different soups donated from restaurants in the Derry area as well as delicious breads & desserts. In an effort to encourage more families with children, KIDS UNDER 12 tickets are just \$15. *They have absorbed the fee for each ticket in an effort to cut down on staff time it takes to sell tickets in person or by mail.*

A pottery wheel demonstration will be occurring in the hour prior to the event for waiting patrons. We will be featuring a 50/50 raffle, musical entertainment / photo booth, a silent auction, and again the world famous Red Star Twirlers will be serving at the event. Auction items donated from other New England artists and craftsmen include oil, acrylic and water color paintings, matted photography, wooden crafts, clothing and handcrafted jewelry. The value of all art donated amounts to over \$5,000. This event is not to be missed.

For information on tickets or location questions, please contact Julie at 432-0877 x 1, or email her at julie@comcaregivers.org. Tickets can be purchased through an [Eventbrite link](#).



**Prepared to Serve 2020:
A Training Event for All of God's People**

Local Church Members, Lay Leaders, and Clergy
looking for Inspiration and Joy are invited to join us
on February 22, 2020 at Pembroke Academy for a day of
Worship, Workshops, Exhibits, and Fellowship with over 400 Attendees.

50+ Workshops on topics including: Stewardship, Church Finances, Music, Outreach,
Christian Education, Social Justice, Worship Resources, and Personal Enrichment.

Registration Opens January 2020.
Watch for details in the Weekly News.

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ
Phone: 603.225.6647 Toll Free: 1.888.642.8229 www.nhuccc.org



The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregational Baptist Church of Chester, New Hampshire will be held in the church sanctuary on Sunday, February 2, 2020 immediately following the worship service, beginning with a light lunch.

The following shall be the order of business;

Reading of the Call of the Meeting
Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting
Reports of Boards and Officers
Report of the Cabinet
Unfinished Business
Appropriations for Ensuing Year
Election of Officers and Board Members
Other New Business

Per order of the Clerk,



Lynn Rockwell, Clerk



We had 22 families receive Christmas baskets this year. We also had the PJ Project again this year and had pajamas for each child. There was a donation of Christmas stockings that included tins of cookies. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations!

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



We did it! We all survived “Christmas in the Village,” Blue Christmas, Christmas Concerts, Christmas Parties, Baptisms, Christmas Eve Service, and if you were lucky enough to get a glimpse of Santa rushing through town. What a month! I know for myself I am smiling at it all. Friendships were made stronger and my faith grown deeper. Things have a way of working out. Winter Solstice is behind us and the days are getting a bit longer. We have accomplished so much in 2019 and now onto 2020 to do so much more.

We invite you to our prayer group meetings, Sunday morning in the Vestry before worship @ 9:40 AM.

Gordon Rankin, UCC Conference Minister will be preaching Sunday February 9, 2020. Be sure to put that on your calendar. We will be having a special coffee hour.

We would like to thank Barbara Lacombe for taking time to polish the brass collection plates.

The Deacons’ fund was created to help those in times of need. Please consider donating to the fund so funds are there when someone is in crisis. Please contact a Deacon if you have any questions.

We have had some interest in folks making prayer shawls, if we set up a time to together would you be interested? Let Deb Field know. debfield@gsinet.net, 887-3398 Many hands make light work.

Teresa Rogers is Deacon of the month for January.

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



SOME WORDS FROM MOTHER TERESA AS 2020 BEGINS

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies; succeed anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway.
What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway.
The good you do today, people will forget tomorrow; do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; give the best you’ve got anyway.
You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It never was between you and them anyway.

This quotation was shared in a past UCC Conference hand-out.



Briefing from the BORF

A Happy, Healthy, and Blessed 2020 to all!

2019 was a very busy and productive year for the BORF and we go into 2020 excited, well-informed, and with the basics of a roadmap for the coming year. 2020 is basically going to be a “gap year” before we start the physical “Meetinghouse Preservation Project” work. There are other needs and projects that will require attention and we must begin to put some of our efforts on them. Here are some examples of what we want to focus on this year.

- Assess the need for a new furnace for Vestry.
- Necessary repairs to the Parsonage.
- Feasibility of refurbishing some salvageable shutters.
- Partial Vestry roof replacement.
- Vestry/Parsonage gardens and landscaping overhaul.

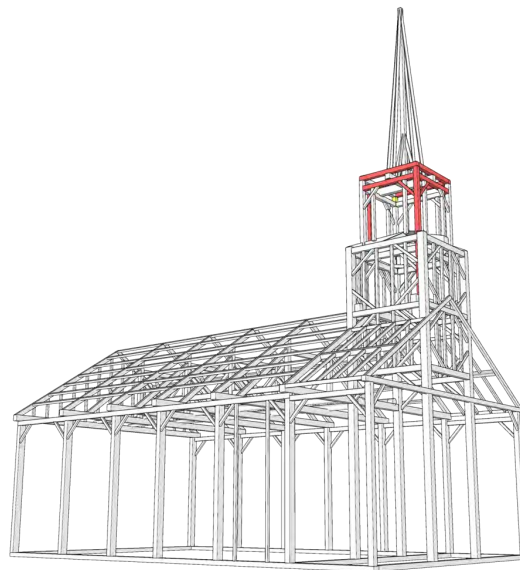
We have experienced a very good start to our Capital Campaign but must remember that we still have three buildings and a staff that need to be supported, not only financially, but with all the gifts that God has given us. Please continue to pray for all of our Church family and ask God to help each of us to determine what our role and contribution may be at the start of this new decade.

Budgetary planning for 2020 has started and will be completed in early January for presentation at the February Business meeting. If you have any input or new items to add to 2020 budget, please quickly get this information to Nate Rockwell and/or Mike Pagliuca. Our very supportive congregation continues to provide what we need to continue sharing the word of God in our beautiful little town! Thanks to all who have pledged their support in 2020!

The Lord has been good to us, we have so much to be thankful for at Chester Congregational Baptist Church!

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 had such an exciting time with our success so far with the Meetinghouse Preservation Project. If you were not at the Celebration Dinner on Oct. 26, 2019, [please follow the link to watch it on CCTV](#). We will continue throughout 2020 to fundraise and to educate the public about this project. Please watch for signs and events as they come along!

Thank you to all who have pledged and donated support to this important project, and do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Lynn Rockwell, Chair, Meetinghouse Preservation Project



We begin 2020 grateful indeed for the heartwarming response to our appeal for support. We have to date received 52 pledge cards from members, friends, project donors, business entities, the Chester Historical Society, and the Town of Chester. The amount pledged thus far is \$322,000.00. Twenty-one of the pledges were paid at the time of the pledge, 18 are to be paid on an annual basis, while 9 will be paid monthly, 2 weekly, and 2 'from time to time.' Moreover, an additional 36 individuals or couples have generously given one time gifts. The total amount received thus far is \$218,837.53. While some of the gifts are in the thousands, many others range from \$10.00 and up. This is an effort which is by no means finished. New commitments and gifts are most welcome and still needed. *Have you responded yet and done your part to preserve this building and to maintain its significant, centuries-long, civic and religious roles in the center of Chester?*

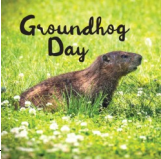

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Church Service: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*			1 	2	3	4
5	6 	7	8 6:30pm BORF meeting	9	10	11
12 11:00am Deacons' meeting	13	14	15	16 Annual reports due to the Church office	17	18
19 	20	21	22	23	24	25 9am-noon Food Pantry open in the Vestry
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> Sunday Church Service: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month* </div>						
2 11:00am Annual Meeting 	3	4	5 6:30pm BORF meeting	6	7	8
9 10:00 am The Rev. Gordon Rankin	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16 	17	18	19	20	21	22 All Day Prepared to Serve. 9am-noon Food Pantry open in Vestry
23 	24	25	26 	27	28	29



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