



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit

March 2020

Upcoming Events

Daylight Saving Time begins

Sunday March 8th ~ turn clocks ahead one hour

Special Church Meeting

Sunday, March 8th following Worship

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Sunday, March 22nd

Cabin Fever Dinner

Saturday, March 28th ~ 5:00-7:00pm in the Vestry

Palm Sunday

April 5th

Easter Sunday

April 12th



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

Lines from Linda,

I offer my life to you, Lord. My God, I trust you.

Turn to me, God, and have mercy on me because I'm alone and suffering. My heart's troubles keep getting bigger—set me free from my distress! Look at my suffering and trouble—forgive all my sins! (Psalm 25:1-2a,16-18 CEB)

This has been a strange winter. At times January felt more like spring than winter. February had cold days and unusually warm days. While this has been great for the people tapping maple trees for sap, flowers do not know what to do. Bird feeders needed to come down a few weeks ago because bears came out early looking for food. Yet spring is not quite here and we are still in the doldrums of winter. We are anxious for spring to come and bring warmer temperatures and new growth. We want to bypass winter and move straight to spring or even summer.

Perhaps that is the way it is as we move through the season of Lent, we are in a hurry to experience Easter and perhaps we do not even think about Lent. Lent tends to be seen as a time of gloom and self-denial. However, Lent can be a time of growth and renewal. We think of Lent as being a time of giving up something. Abstinence is only one piece of our journey through Lent. It is a time when we are called to look beyond ourselves by relating to and doing for others. During Lent we are reminded of the need to repent and seek forgiveness from God as it is about our relationship with God.

The season of Lent does invite us into a more reflective mood. Many take time for a special devotional designed especially for the Lenten period. This can be a wonderful deepening time as we look at those parts of our lives which are neglected or even put on the back burner. We can stop and take time to look at ourselves, to look at our relationships with others, and to look at our openness to transformation by God. As I preached on March 1, knowing that we are forgiven brings joy to our lives.

May we, through our devotional times, prayers, self-reflection, relationships with others, and connecting with God, be open to the transforming power of the Spirit.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda

CALL ON HIS NAME



Lillian Arthur

JB

Dan Barter

Jim Brown, friend of Pauline Hoyt

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

James Cooney, friend of Mike Elliott

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Mike Elliott

Peggy Elliott, Mike Elliott's mother

JJ Finney

Bob Henderson

Steve Hebert

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Lisa Long, Donna Foote and Jean Gagnon's daughter

Janet MacGray

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...

Linda Millsaps, Cliff's sister-in-law, who died on January 15th

Verlie Rajaniemi, Cindy McLaughlin's mom who died on January 17th

Avery Millsaps, Cliff's brother, who died on January 19th

Ethel Menard who died on January 24th

Leroy Noyes who died on January 31st

Bob Brown, Don Brown's brother, who died on February 28th



BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, March 8th at 11:00am



**Daylight Saving time begins
Turn clocks ahead one hour
on Sunday, March 8th**



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:





Community Caregivers of Greater Derry
Volunteer Drivers Needed:

Volunteer Drivers are needed to assist homebound Chester residents. Volunteer drivers make a huge difference by providing rides to local medical appointments. This is a **very** flexible opportunity, drives are based on volunteer preferences and schedules. Volunteers can choose to drive once a month, once a week or at a frequency that works for them. For every new volunteer 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 help support individuals to remain living independently in their own homes and community. All services are free of charge.

At this time, their primary need is for occasional transportation to medical appointments and one person requested friendly visiting for her husband who is homebound. He loves to garden and talk gardening.

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. Check us out at: www.comcaregivers.org.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering ~ Sunday, March 22nd

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life.

Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in

sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity!



NH Gay Men's Chorus

Spring 2020 Concert Series: Let Me Be The Music

NHGMC is giving four performances of their Spring 2020 Concert Series – **Let Me Be the Music**. Save the dates! To reserve “will call” concert tickets, visit our Tickets page at www.nhgmc.com/tickets. Tickets can also always be purchased at the door of your concert.

ADULT (ages 13 through 64) – \$22

SENIOR (ages 65+) and VETERAN – \$17

Children (ages 12 and under) are admitted FREE

NASHUA – Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm

First Baptist Church of Nashua, 121 Manchester Street, Nashua

MANCHESTER – Sunday, May 3rd at 4:00 pm

The Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester

CONCORD – Saturday, May 16th at 7:30 pm

Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton Street, Concord

PORTSMOUTH – Sunday, May 17th at 4:00 pm

South Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth



The Interfaith Choir

presents

A Little Bit of This... And A Little Bit of That...

Saturday, April 4th at 7:00pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church, 4 Chester Street, Chester

and

Sunday, April 5th at 4:00pm

Mary Queen of Peace Church, 200 Lawrence Road, Salem

Admission is FREE

Refreshments following each concert. A free will offering will be accepted at the concerts.

Cabin Fever Dinner

Saturday, March 28th ~ 5:00 - 7:00pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church Vestry



Enjoy a delicious dinner of homemade beef stew, a vegetarian/vegan stew, biscuits, A Hot Chocolate bar, along with beverages and desserts.

Donations for the dinner will be accepted at the door and will support the ongoing missions of the Church. Please wear plaid for a chance to win a door prize!

Contact us:

4 Chester Street, Chester, NH

603-887-4799

chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

www.chesternhchurch.org





It's time to order your Easter plants, which will grace our sanctuary on Easter morning, April 12th. After the service you may bring them home or arrangements can be made to have them delivered to shut-ins.

Please mail in this form, along with your check made out to Chester Congregational Baptist Church (P.O. Box 306, Chester, NH 03036). **Flower orders are due to the Church office by Tuesday, March 31st.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Given in memory of _____

Or

in celebration of _____

I would like to order the following Easter plants....

<u>Number of Plants</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6" Tulip _____ (Colors available: white, pink, red, purple, yellow or orange)	\$10.00	\$_____
6" Daffodil _____	\$10.00	\$_____
6" Hyacinth _____	\$10.00	\$_____
6" Lily _____	\$10.00	\$_____
Double Lily _____	\$22.00	\$_____
Triple Lily _____	\$30.00	\$_____
Total # of plants: _____	Total enclosed	\$_____

☐ I will pick up my plants after the Easter morning service.

☐ I would like to have my plants delivered to shut-ins.



We thank Paul Scott for his years service on the Board of Deacons. We welcome Marge Pagliuca and Linda Noyes back onto the board. We look forward to having a full Board after the business meeting on the 8th.

Lent started on February 26th with a service joined by the members of the Longmeadow Church. Pastor Linda reminded us of the meaning for the service and for the time of Lent. If you haven't received the devotional booklet "From Suffering to Salvation" to aid you in your time of Lent, pick up a copy in church.

We welcome Henry Kopczynskie, our new Music Director. Choir rehearsal is starting this Thursday, March 5th. If you like to sing, come join the choir.

If you know of someone who is going through a difficult time, let the deacons know so that we can give them a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls cover the person with prayers and love.

The Deacons' Fund is available for anyone who is having some financial problems. No paperwork is required.

The deacon for March is Marge Pagliuca.

The Deacons for 2020 are Deb Field, Mary Hamblett, Linda Noyes, Marge Pagliuca and Teresa Rogers.



We welcome Henry Kopczynskie - our new Music Director

Henry is a pianist, accompanist, conductor, composer, vocalist, and vocal coach. He has served as musical director for several theatrical productions throughout Southern New Hampshire. Henry holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Boston's Berklee College of Music. Henry received the New Hampshire Theatre Award for Best Musical Direction for three productions with Peacock Players. Henry is the former Director of Music at Saint Patrick's Church in Milford NH.



Briefing from the BORF

As noted in our last newsletter, the BORF is going to be focusing on specific projects in 2020 before we begin the physical “Meetinghouse Preservation Project” starting in 2021. We have assigned ownership to those most urgent and have begun planning as follows:

- We will assess the need for a new furnace for the Vestry during the next service call in April to determine if the heat exchanger is still sound.
- Necessary repairs to the Parsonage will begin this summer.
- The back Vestry roof will need to be replaced and we are deciding if this is a project we can do ourselves or if we need to hire a roofer.
- Vestry/Parsonage gardens and landscaping work will begin in the spring.
- We have found two wooden shutter manufacturers in New England who we can contact to determine if we can refurbish any of the existing ones.

On a very positive note, Norm has been monitoring the water leakage in the steeple since we had the stabilization work done by Arron Sturgis in the fall and it appears to be staying dry. We are not ready to claim success at this point until we get some really heavy wind-driven spring rains but remain optimistic that this was a good interim solution to prevent additional damage to the sanctuary ceiling until the major repairs can be completed.

Another area that is being addressed is the need to install additional power outlets on each side of the front of the sanctuary. We need to eliminate the current practice of running extension cords across the front of the church, especially with the equipment necessary to continue enjoying our CCBC Praise Band.

As we look toward spring and the pending effort that will be required to clean up the properties, Fran Bechtold contacted the local Boy Scout Troup about taking on a community service project helping us with our outdoor work. She got a very positive response and the BORF has set up the spring clean-up date for May 9th with a rain date of May 16th. This is such great news as we have been struggling over the past years to get this work done. We will provide the Boy Scouts with direction, supervision, and snacks! Sounds like a great deal to us!

The Lord continues to bless us and we have much to be thankful for!

Respectfully submitted by the 2019 Board of Resources and Finance.

The Board of Resources and Finance for 2020 consists of Nate Rockwell, Fran Bechtold, Norman Field, Donna Foote, Jean Gagnon and Penny Henderson.

WORDS TO HELP AND GUIDE US AS WE WEEP AT MUCH OF THE NEWS OF TODAY'S WORLD

From an ancient Jewish book and Received at a Workshop at *Prepared to Serve*

Do not be daunted
by the enormity
of the world's grief.
Do justly, now.
Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated
to complete the work,
but neither are you free
to abandon it.



There will be a Special Church
meeting on Sunday, March 8th following
the Worship service.



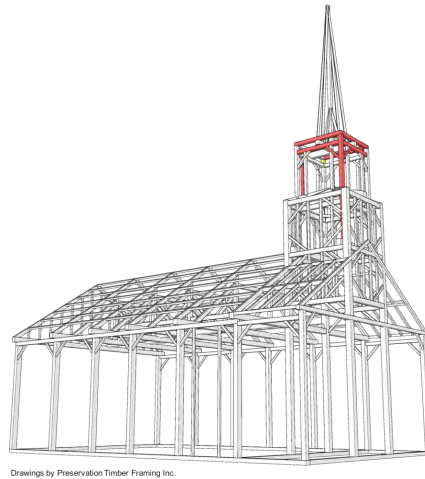
Current Food Pantry needs:

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 Update

We are so excited that there is a Warrant Article at the next Town Meeting on Saturday, March 14th at 9:00am in support of our project! Please come to Town Meeting to vote YES! Lynn will speak to this article that was brought forth by the Selectmen, and has their support 5 yes/0 no/0 abstain and Budget Committee support 4/0/2 abstain.

Article #11 reads: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of helping to defray the expense of structural work on the steeple of the Chester Congregational Church which houses the Town Clock. The actual amount of said donation is to be conditioned upon the Congregational Church raising an equal amount of funding between Town Meeting of March 10th, 2020 and Town Meeting of March 9th, 2021. The amount donated will not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

We see this as a great opportunity for encouraging groups and individuals to come up with matching funds to fully take advantage of this generous offer. We will be reaching out to various organizations to ask if they will serve as “Preservation Partners” with us, as well as inviting others to pledge or donate.

The Executive Committee met on February 24th, 2020 to discuss our next steps. There will be a follow-up Publicity Committee meeting on March 18th at 6:30pm and then a follow-up Executive Committee meeting on April 15th at 6:30pm. We intend to keep the ball rolling and thank everyone for their support!

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Rockwell, Chair

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 10:00am FIGGs meeting 6:30pm BORF meeting	5 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 	7
8 11am Special Church mtg 11am Deacons mtg 	9	10	11	12 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15	16	17 	18 10:00am FIGGs meeting	19 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal First Day of Spring	20 <div>ABC VNH Annual Meeting</div>	21 9am- noonFood Pantry open in Vestry
22 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	23	24	25	26 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28 5-7pm Cabin Fever Dinner
29	30	31	<div> Sunday Church Service: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month* </div>			



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
Music Director:	Henry Kopczynskie
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