

# THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 9

Special offering this month: *Our Ministry of Space*

September 2025



**Center Harbor  
Congregational Church**  
*United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

PO Box 229, 52 Main Street  
Center Harbor, NH 03226  
Tel: (603) 253-7698  
Website: [www.chccucc.org](http://www.chccucc.org)

**Office Hours:**

Tues. 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Wed. 7:30 AM - 3:30 pm

## Coming Together in Gratitude

When Matt and I first moved in together, to commit our individual selves to a partnership built on love and trust, we were given one of the many quilts that his grandmother had made. It was a hand-me-down made of squares of scraps in no pattern at all. There were squares of flowers, trains, cartoon characters – any kind of fabric you can imagine. Some of the fabric patterns I really like, some not so much. And Matt's tastes don't always match mine. But all the diverse patches come together to keep us warm.

This year's stewardship challenge theme is "Coming Together in Gratitude," and we are reminded that we are a community of diverse experiences, talents, and passions. We come together in unity, not uniformity, for the purpose of celebrating God's abundant love and passing that abundant love onto others in so many different ways. Some of us take the most joy from singing and praying together on Sunday morning, some are most passionate about our mission work, some take the most solace in communion over ice cream or literature. All of it contributes to who we are as a church. Whatever is most meaningful about this church to you, we hope you keep it in mind as you imagine how you will participate in the joyful season of our upcoming stewardship challenge.

Want to know my favorite part of Grammy's quilt? 15 years later, I am still finding patches that I never noticed before. I wonder what new things lie in store for us as we contemplate what it means to come together to be a church.

*Pastor Alison*



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*Pastor Alison Thatcher*  
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*Laura Curran, Preschool Director*  
603-455-1067

*All Members: Ministers*

**Deacon:**  
Chris Thompson  
603-937-1651

**Property Team**  
Jeff Koniszewski  
603-521-4473

# Church Life

## Bible Study and Indoor Worship

Starting on September 4th, weekly Bible study will resume. Sessions will be held at 9 am on Zoom. See Pastor Alison's weekly e-mail for the Zoom link.

With the cooler temperatures of fall, outdoor worship will sadly end. Beginning on September 7th, worship will move back indoors and begin at 10 am. On the bright side, we will once again enjoy the beautiful voices of our choir!

## Fellowship through Ice Cream

We have had another successful summer of weekly ice cream socials. These events have brought our church community together at different ice cream shops around the region. Thank you to Don Edwards for organizing this summer's ice cream calendar.



## Are you a Hannaford Shopper? You can help earn cash for the church!

How Does it Work?

**Hannaford is funding a program for churches to earn money. Purchase \$100 grocery shopping cards during Fellowship Hour on Sundays and Hannaford will donate \$5 to the church for each card sold! Rather than using your own cash or credit card in the store, purchase grocery cards and help earn for CHCC!**

**Cash or check accepted!**

**Use the cards in any Hannaford store!**

**You can still earn and spend your rewards!**

**Gift cards cannot be used for alcohol or tobacco.**

**If you spend \$50 one week, the credit remains on the card for future use.**

**The gift cards NEVER expire!**

**Our church can make easy money all year round!**

**This summer, we earned over \$700!**

**Talk it up with family and friends! Purchase their cards on Sunday too!  
EASY EARNINGS FOR OUR CHURCH, THANKS TO HANNAFORD!**

## Books 'n Bites

Did you just finish an amazing book and need to tell someone about it? Have you been reading a bunch of duds and need a recommendation?



Come and share what you've been reading!

**Tuesday, September 16th at 1:30 pm**

Contact Jill Morton (ladymort17@gmail.com) or

Diane Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)



**Portrait Painting  
Saturday, Sept. 6th,  
6:30 PM  
Gilpatric Hall**

Bring a friend and a sense of humor to our portrait painting event. Have a fun time sharing your talents, or lack thereof, with your CHCC family!

No experience necessary. All supplies provided.  
RSVP to church office by Sept. 3rd.



## Notes from the August Cabinet Meeting

Actions taken at our Tuesday, 8/19 Meeting:

- Approved minutes of June 17th Cabinet meeting with thanks to the Clerk;
- Heard an update on the security grant from the grant coordinator and voted in favor of moving to the next step, installation of the panic button system;
- Approved the Treasurer's Report with thanks to the Treasurer;
- Heard a review of the events and times of the Stewardship Challenge from the Stewardship Committee chair;
- Learned from representative of the Stewardship Logo Committee of the selected theme/logo — Come Together in Gratitude "Like fabric in a quilt that is God's beautiful creation"
- Acknowledged minutes from Mission, Deacons, Property, Christian Ed, and Stewardship.

Thanks to the Cabinet for their great work!

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be September 16th at 7 PM (Zoom or in-person TBA).

## Holly Fair Prep Continues!

Despite the hot summer weather, crafters have been busy creating holiday items at home. Check out some of the beautiful items created for the 2025 Holly Fair!



## Seeking Items for Country Store

When you're not in a JAM for time and you find yourself RELISHING the thought of working in the kitchen, please consider making some canned/preserved vegetables and/or fruit for the November 22nd Holly Fair Country Store. We don't want to be in a PICKLE with nothing to sell!

And, if you CAN, please let Country Store Manager Barb Edwards (603-533-5925) know what you will be contributing. We are hoping for a nice variety of jams and pickles.



## Gift Baskets and Silent Auction

In September, the Silent Auction team will be reaching out to our generous community partners. AND Holly Fair elves are gearing up to produce our beautiful gift baskets! Thank you for your donation of requested items or your monetary donation to be used to purchase items for the baskets! We are still looking for empty baskets to fill with all of our gift basket goodies. If you have a basket to donate, you can leave it on the stage in Gilpatric Hall.

Last year we had overflowing gift basket and silent auction tables. Consider donating to help us have an equal bounty this year!



# News from the Board of Missions

## September Mission of the Month—Our Ministry of Space

The Board of Missions has designated September as the month to recognize our building and grounds as essential elements of our local mission and all that we do as the loving hands of God in the local community. Please consider an extra contribution to help keep our ministry of space in good working order.

You might ask, "Don't we already support our buildings and grounds through our pledges and giving to the church?" The answer is yes, in part. Giving to the church through pledges and regular giving covers 60% of the budget. The 5% sustainable withdrawal and interest from our invested funds covers 16%, and fundraisers and use-of-church donations cover 7%. To balance the operating budget, we're withdrawing an additional amount from our funds to cover the remaining 18%, which means we're dipping into the future to pay for the present. The 3 biggest areas in which our budgeted costs have increased in 2025 are pastoral expenses (\$7,910), property-related expenses (\$4,342), and music expenses (\$1,818).

You might also ask, "So why are we calling this a mission?" The answer is that our buildings and grounds reach beyond our congregation and are integral to our outreach to the community. Imagine if we didn't have the gift of space to offer. Through our buildings and grounds, we provide a beautiful gathering place of service and support: the Village Preschool, the Soup Kitchen, the Little Food Pantry, AA and Humble Grunt Work meeting space, and overflow parking for the town, local businesses, and the youth fishing derby. In many ways our church serves as a community center for the town. We contribute to the spirit of the town through the music of our carillon and the presence of our steeple on the hill. The Craft Fair and Yard Sale in July and the Holly Fair in November are not only fundraisers but friend-raisers that bring the community together. These activities are all part of our mission and outreach.

In summary, our Ministry of Space recognizes the importance of our property and grounds to the mission work of the church and asks that you consider making an extra contribution toward keeping our space and our funds in good working order for all who bene-

### 2025 Contributions to Missions (as of August 26th)



## Lawn Mowing

With the lack of rain and cool temperatures coming back, our lawn mowing needs are slowly receding. However, the lawn still needs care every other week in the fall months. We currently have two openings for fall lawnmowing: **Week of September 15th and Week of September 29th.** If you are able to help out with the lawn either of those weeks, please sign up on the clipboard or call the church office.

### Collection of Soft Plastics Continues

All soft plastic **MUST** be cleaned of food, dried, and stick-on labels cut out. Soft plastics include items such as: plastic bags, frozen food bags, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap (popped!), clean mulch/dirt bags, plastic nut bags, etc. All those plastics will stay out of our landfills and will find their way to a better use.

Soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia at a monthly collection. They are then shipped elsewhere and repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture.



|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Backpacks                        | \$360             |
| Camp Resilience                  | \$212             |
| Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross | \$447             |
| Interlakes Community Caregivers  | \$150             |
| Habitat for Humanity             | \$766             |
| Horton Center                    | \$749             |
| Hunger Action                    | \$205             |
| Medical Debt Relief              | \$19.50           |
| Ministry of Space                | \$30              |
| Neighbors in Need                | \$45              |
| New Beginnings                   | \$729             |
| OCWM                             | \$1,483           |
| OGHS                             | \$554             |
| Strengthen the Church            | \$254             |
| Deacon's Fund                    | \$1,366           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$7,369.50</b> |



## Sunday School



## Village Preschool

### Sunday School Kicks off September 7th

Our Sunday school teachers have been hard at work planning for this year's school year. We will again have two classes and be using the Shine curriculum. The first day of Sunday school is September 7th. Sunday school follows the Interlakes school district calendar for school vacations and holidays—there will be no Sunday school on Sundays before Monday holidays or on the weekends surrounding school vacation weeks. We look forward to a new year of learning with our church's youngest members.

Rally day will be held after worship on September 7th. Please join us for some fun, games, and fellowship. Dress casually and bring a sense of humor!

#### Sunday School Schedule

September—7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

October—5th, 19th, 26th

(No Sunday School October 12th)

November—2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

(No Sunday School November 30th)

December—7th, 14th, 21st

(No Sunday School December 28th)

January—11th, 25th

(No Sunday School January 4th or 18th)

February—1st, 8th, 15th

(No Sunday School February 22nd)

March—8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

(No Sunday School March 1st)

April—5th, 12th, 19th

(No Sunday School April 26th)

May—10th and 17th

(No Sunday School May 3rd)

Sunday School Ends May 17th

### Preschool Opens September 8th

Our preschool is excited for another start to the school year. Our director, Laura Curran, and teacher, Elena Murphy, will welcome a full class of twelve students on September 8th. Students will again be attending three days a week—Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. An open house for preschoolers and their families will be held the first week of September. We wish all of our young learners a great school year!



### Bell Choir

Do you hear them? The bells are calling all ringers to make joyful sounds (not noise) to fill the air.



Rehearsals begin September 14th after fellowship hour. Please join us for our second season as we prepare for the holidays and beyond. Contact Patty Finn (pfinn@pingry.org).



9/03 Nancy Stamnas  
 9/7 Patty McQuone  
 9/10 Su Mansur  
 9/12 Palmer Smith  
 9/12 Carol Bovill  
 9/17 Jill Morton  
 9/22 Diane Crawford  
 9/25 Patte Morrow  
 9/29 Gail Miller  
 9/30 Honey Evans



9/01 Laurie and William Burke  
 9/04 Dave and Lynne Sias  
 9/06 Jane Hilder and Robertson Williams  
 9/06 Joe and Marianne McGrail  
 9/22 Kevin and Patte Morrow



Our Church's children, Isadora (age 6) & Maris (age 8), created their version of the Lord's Prayer:

God, our Mother, Father, and Ancestors, you are smart like the owl. We want your nice and friendly ways on Earth, full of peace, justice, and equality. Give us food, water, and health. Let us continue with our lives and not be too hard on ourselves or others when we mess up. Walk us down a path that doesn't have bad things. Amen.

-Pastor Alison Thatcher,  
Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC NH



[www.facebook.com/CenterHarborCongregationalChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CenterHarborCongregationalChurch)

## Opportunities In Our Community

**Covered Bridges of NH: Past and Present**  
**Tuesday, September 9th, 6-7 pm**  
**Moultonborough Public Library**

Join Kim Varney Chandler, author of *Covered Bridges of New Hampshire*, on a tour through images and her knowledge of the history of these bridges across the Granite State.



Sponsored by NH Humanities, this program is open to the public and free for all.

Register at [Moultonborough Public Library—Covered Bridges](http://MoultonboroughPublicLibrary.org) or by calling 603-476-8895

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

First UMC of Gilford  
 18 Wesley Way, Gilford 03249

**Saturday, September 13th**

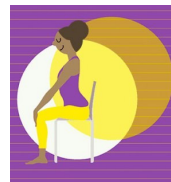
**5pm outdoor chapel**

**Wooded area behind the church**

Please have your pets on a leash or in a carrier for their safety during the blessing.



**Chair Yoga at Center Harbor Library**  
 Thursdays at 10 am  
 Beginning September 18th



This class emphasizes stretching, balancing, deep breathing, meditation and relaxation. A wide variety of yoga poses are done seated in a comfortable straight back chair making the practice suitable for everyone!

No set cost to attend, but please pre-register as space is limited. Call the library at (603)253-6950 or email us at [centerharborlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:centerharborlibrary@gmail.com)

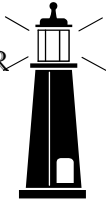
Class fee is by donation - give whatever you can afford.

# Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

## September 2025

### ***This Month's Mission: Our Ministry of Space***

| Sunday  | Monday                           | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                      | Saturday                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Boldface = Church-sponsored events</b>                             | 1                                | 2<br>4:30 pm Soup Kitchen   | 3<br>9:00 am Village Preschool Family Open House<br><br>5:00 pm Missions Mtg., Zoom   | 4<br>9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom  | 5<br>8:00 pm AA, Gilpatric  | 6<br>6:30 pm Portrait Painting, Gilpatric |
| 7<br>10:00 am Worship<br><br>First Day of Sunday School and Rally Day | 8<br>Village Preschool First Day | 9<br>4:30 pm Soup Kitchen   | 10<br>4:30 pm Deacons Mtg., Zoom  | 11<br>9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom<br><br>5:30 PM Humble Grunt Work, Gilpatric | 12<br>8:00 pm AA, Gilpatric | 13  |
| 14<br>10:00 am Worship<br><br>11:00 am Bell Choir                     | 15                               | 16<br>1:30 pm Books & Bites, Parlor<br><br>4:30 pm Soup Kitchen<br><br>7:00 pm Cabinet Mtg. | 17  | 18<br>9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom   | 19<br>8:00 pm AA, Gilpatric | 20  |
| 21<br>10:00 am Worship<br><br>11:00 am Bell Choir                     | 22                               | 23<br>4:30 pm Soup Kitchen<br><br>Deadline for Annual Report Submissions                    | 24  | 25<br>9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom   | 26<br>8:00 pm AA, Gilpatric | 27  |
| 28<br>10:00 am Worship<br><br>11:00 am Bell Choir                     | 29                               | 30<br>4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  | <b>Questions? Call the secretary during Office/Sanctuary Hours:</b><br><b>Tuesday, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm</b><br><b>Wednesday, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm</b><br>or leave a message:<br><b>(603) 253-7698</b><br><b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org">CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org</a></b> |   |                             |   |



## The Autumn by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Go, sit upon the lofty hill,  
And turn your eyes around,  
Where waving woods and waters wild  
Do hymn an autumn sound.  
The summer sun is faint on them,  
The summer flowers depart,  
Sit still, as all transform'd to stone,  
Except your musing heart.

How there you sat in summer-time,  
May yet be in your mind;  
And how you heard the green woods sing  
Beneath the freshening wind.  
Though the same wind now blows around,  
You would its blast recall;  
For every breath that stirs the trees,  
Doth cause a leaf to fall.

Oh! like that wind, is all the mirth  
That flesh and dust impart:  
We cannot bear its visitings,  
When change is on the heart.  
Gay words and jests may make us smile,  
When Sorrow is asleep;  
But other things must make us smile,  
When Sorrow bids us weep!

The dearest hands that clasp our hands,  
Their presence may be o'er;  
The dearest voice that meets our ear,  
That tone may come no more!  
Youth fades; and then, the joys of youth,  
Which once refresh'd our mind,  
Shall come, as, on those sighin woods,  
The chilling autumn wind.

Hear not the wind, view not the woods;  
Look out o'er vale and hill  
In spring, the sky encircled them,  
The sky is round them still.  
Come autumn's scathe, come winter's cold,  
Come change, and human fate!  
Whatever prospect Heaven doth bound,  
Can ne'er be desolate

This poem is in the public domain.



*Autumn* by Joseph Rubens Powell, 1835/1871, watercolor over graphite on wove paper, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC