

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 11

Special offering this month: *Interlakes Community Caregivers*

November 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

Office Hours:

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

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Pastor Alison Thatcher
CHCCpastor@chccucc.org

Nancy Stamnas, Music Director

Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary
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Laura Curran, Preschool Director
603-455-1067

All Members: Ministers

Deacon:
Cindy Thompson
603-451-8864

Property Team
Jeff Koniszewski
603-521-4473

Held in the Light

As I am writing this, it is late October and daylight savings time is still a couple weeks away. As an early riser, I can't wait. It has been so dark when I wake up in the morning, and I have as hard a time getting myself out of bed as getting my kiddo out of bed. We eat breakfast in the dark, we pack our bags in the dark; it's even still dark when we're waiting outside for the school bus. I start my workday early and usually have plenty of afternoon daylight to go for a walk, do housework, or prep for dinner. So, I'm happy to sacrifice some afternoon daylight for a brighter morning.

My husband works until dinnertime and sleeps in most mornings. He is not looking forward to daylight savings time. He will spend all day inside and it will already be dark by the time he gets out of work. I'm sure in our community we have a mix of early risers and late sleepers. Some people who are looking forward to more daylight in the morning and some lamenting that the sun will go down so much earlier in the afternoon. And some who struggle with the dearth of daylight no matter which end it gets pulled from.

Luckily, we live in community. When one person is drained by lack of light, energy, or hope, there are others who can hold them up. Or, as the Quakers say, "Hold them in the light." We all need someone to hold us in the light sometimes. So, my beloveds, as the days continue to get darker, look to your neighbor. Perhaps they can hold your light until you get back on your feet. Perhaps you have the strength to hold their light for a spell. When the world feels dark, look for the light in each other. And know that I will be holding each of you in the light as we journey on together.

Blessed be,
Pastor Alison

Remember to turn back
your clocks November 2nd!



Church Life

Stewardship Dinner

On Saturday, October 25th, 30 members and friends of the congregation gathered for our annual fellowship dinner. The theme this year was Come Together in Gratitude: Like Fabric in a Quilt that is God's Beautiful Creation. The theme was aided by the presentation of a beautiful quilt put together by Janet Gulezian, featuring squares made by church members. Guests at the dinner collaged churches with scraps from the quilt so that everyone was able to take home a piece of the quilt.

This year, we were fortunate to have a guest chef, Jay Homer, who is a member of Church of Another Chance, prepare the dinner. Chef Jay owns his own catering business, This Fork for You; his contact information is available in the church office. In addition to preparing a delicious meal, Chef Jay and his family joined us for the dinner. The meal was rounded up by donated salads, desserts, and drinks. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution.

As always, the event was capped off with singing and a slide show of church activities from the previous year.



Successful Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held after church on Sunday, October 26th. It was a productive meeting including a presentation of a narrative budget, approval of the 2026 proposed budget, and discussion of future tasks for the church. A proposal was made and accepted to make it a priority for the Cabinet to revise by-laws to more accurately reflect current membership available for filling elected positions by March 2026. There was also discussion of when to begin the process of seeking a settled pastor.

Annual meeting materials such as the Annual Report and Narrative Budget are available in the church office or on the church website in a password protected area. Contact the secretary by phone during office hours if you need the password.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in putting together materials for this year's Annual Report and Narrative Budget.

Pitter Patter Went the Drums

October 11th a group gathered for a drum circle lead by Patty Finn. The group worked and laughed together to create some fun music.

If you have an idea for a fellowship activity, contact Louisa in the office.



Thank you to Jeff Koniszewski for refreshing the paint on the outdoor sign and bench! And to both Ann and Jeff for cleaning the larger church sign.



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, December 2 at 1:30 pm

Contact Jill Morton (ladymort17@gmail.com) or

Diane Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)

Notes from the October Cabinet Meeting

Actions taken at our Tuesday, 10/21 Meeting:

- Approved minutes of Cabinet meeting of September 16th with thanks to the Clerk;
- Approved the Treasurer's Report with thanks to the Treasurer;
- Received the Narrative Budget with great appreciation;
- Received an updated list of nominations from the nominating committee with thanks;
- Received the suggestion of the Mission Board to have church T shirts to wear at church events;
- Noted the need to change the by-laws to fit how we are now operating;
- Received an update from the Property Coordinator;
- Noted the need for a chairperson for the Board of Christian Education;
- Noted the announcement by the Moderator that we will be considering in the near future an issue relating to the Village Preschool;
- Noted minutes from the Board of Christian Education committees.

Thanks to the Cabinet for a time of work well done!

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be November 18th at 7 PM (Zoom or in-person TBA).



The Holly Fair is Almost Here!

In October, volunteers were hard at work creating beautiful gift baskets for the Holly Fair! Thanks to everyone who donated items and/or created the baskets. They are beautiful!



Holly Fair Calendar

Friday, October 31 10:00 in Gilpatric Hall
Finish Gift Baskets, price baskets, start pricing other items

Friday, November 7 10:00 in Gilpatric Hall
Finish pricing

Monday, November 10 6:00 in Church Kitchen
Apple Pie-Making Event

Wednesday, November 19
10:00 in Gilpatric Hall
Table and Sign Set-Up (Designated Crew)

1:00 in Gilpatric Hall
Tablecloths and Swags on Tables

Thursday, November 20 9:00 in Gilpatric Hall
Display Set-Up, snacks provided

Friday, November 21
Any remaining Display Set-Up

Saturday, November 22 Holly Fair Day!!



News from the Board of Missions

October Mission of the Month— Interlakes Community Caregivers



Twenty-seven years ago, a small group of concerned church members at Center Harbor Congregational Church realized that some people were unable to get to their doctors' appointments because they could not drive. That was a beginning of Interlakes Community Caregivers (ICC)—to provide rides to medical appointments (and other necessary activities).

Since then, thousands of "neighbors" have been driven to appointments (both local and more distant), and many more needs have been met that allow people in our Lakes Region to safely remain in their homes.

Caregivers has grown from a small idea in our church to a vibrant and wide-spread organization serving thousands of people living in the Lakes Region. A host of volunteers make up the background of service providers, all led and coordinated by a dedicated staff.

Fire Inspection Plan and Important Projects

After having our fire monitoring system inspected in 2025, for the first time in 17 years, the Property Group realized we needed to establish a more regular pattern of inspection. We also needed to start replacing the very old smoke detectors. Note that all the smoke detectors passed the inspection this year.

In September, the Property Group proposed a plan to the Cabinet, and it was approved. The Fire System will be inspected every 2 years and we will start replacing the 12 old smoke detectors at a rate of 4 per inspection year. This will kick off in 2026, and all the smoke detectors will have been updated by 2030. This spreads out the cost while maintaining a reasonable review and update of this important safety system.

Before the winter sets in, we are trying to finish a few projects. We need to replace the decking on the handicapped entrance ramp in the back of Gilpatric Hall. The framing and railing is in OK shape, and we will make patch repairs as needed. We will be using Trex decking. A workday or two will be announced soon, probably in early November. When you see the announcement, please offer to help if you can.

We have also recently moved the piano from the parlor to Gilpatric Hall to alleviate the sanctuary piano being moved for events in the hall. Thank you to those who helped with the move!

Thank You!

Jeff Koniszewski, Property Manager

2025 Contributions to Missions (as of October 29th)

Backpacks	\$360
Camp Resilience	\$212
Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross	\$447
Interlakes Community Caregivers	\$150
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,041
Horton Center	\$749
Hunger Action	\$205
Medical Debt Relief	\$235.34
Ministry of Space	\$810
Neighbors in Need	\$435
New Beginnings	\$729
OCWM	\$1,615
OGHS	\$554
Strengthen the Church	\$254
Deacon's Fund	\$2,317
Total	\$10,113.34



Fall Lessons in Sunday School

In September the Sunday School classes focused on learning some psalms and how they can help us in our daily lives. With the introduction of Psalm 23 the children learned that God is with them in good and bad times. Psalm 91 taught the children that God will answer them if they call. With the emphasis on Psalm 121 the students learned that God is with them day and night. The final psalm that was taught was Psalm 146, which explained to the students that God lifts up those who bow down.

In October and November the students have learned and will continue to learn about how the Jewish people were displaced from their homeland and exiled to Babylon. These were terrifying times for the people whose future was unclear in a strange land. However, Jeremiah assured them that God had a plan for them. The Jewish people just needed to trust in God's promises, have faith and hope, and make the best of their circumstances to realize His plan.

Sunday School November Schedule

November—2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

(No Sunday School November 30th)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FEATURING TRE VOCE TRIO AND
THE CENTER HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH BELL CHOIR AND GUEST MUSICIANS

NOVEMBER 30, 2:00 PM

CENTER HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
52 MAIN STREET, CENTER HARBOR

FREE AND OPEN TO PUBLIC
REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE



Little Free PANTRY DONATIONS



We are always accepting donations for our outdoor food pantry. As we get closer to colder weather, start to think about picking up items that can be left outside in freezing temperatures or items that people may need for winter. Here are some suggestions:

- Cereal (sweetened cereals are especially popular)
- Boxed/bagged pasta/rice meals
- Boxed/bagged grains/beans
- Tuna pouches
- PB and Jelly (in plastic)
- Nuts/crackers/bars
- Lunch on the Run or Snack boxes
- Dried fruit
- Peanut butter snack crackers
- Granola/breakfast bars
- Beef jerky
- Milk boxes
- Hats/gloves/scarves
- Paper products (tissues, toilet paper)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Thank you for your contributions!

Christmas Poinsettias

Believe it or not, it will soon be time to think about Christmas Poinsettias. Diane Crawford will be organizing the Poinsettia donations this Christmas season. Look for a sign up sheet at fellowship hour Sundays after Holly Fair.





11/13 Dean Gulezian
 11/16 Beatrice Cartier
 11/19 Spencer Martin
 11/21 Marianne McGrail
 11/28 Patricia Martin

OUR CHURCH HAS EARNED OVER \$1000 SINCE JUNE FROM HANNAFORD!

Hannaford is funding a program for churches
to earn money.
 Purchase \$100 grocery cards during Fellowship Hour
on Sundays and Hannaford will donate
\$5 to the church for each card sold!

Cash or check accepted!
 Use the cards in any Hannaford store!
 You can still earn and spend your rewards!
 If you spend \$50 one week, the credit remains
on the card for future use.
 The grocery cards NEVER expire!

Talk it up with family and friends!
 Purchase their cards on Sundays too!
EASY EARNINGS FOR US, THANKS TO HANNAFORD!

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Every morning at 8am,
 enjoy your coffee with
 a message to start
 your day. Missed
 worship on Sunday?
 Watch the highlights
 posted later that day.
 And don't forget to
 LIKE and SHARE our
 posts with your family
 and friends. You'll be
 spreading the Good
 News from CHCC!

www.facebook.com/CenterHarborCongregationalChurch



Opportunities In Our Community Full Moon Hike—November 5th

Join the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) on Wednesday, November 5th for a 2.0 mile hike up West Rattlesnake under the light of the full moon. Led by LRCC AmeriCorps members Dani and Emma, participants will enjoy a short evening hike and gazing upon the moon over Squam Lake. We will meet at the West Rattlesnake Mountain Trailhead Parking Lot and hit the trail at 7:00 PM. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required for this free event.

For more information, or to sign up for this Adventure Ecology program, visit the SLA website (squamlakes.org) or contact the SLA directly (603-968-7336).

Holiday Open House at the Loon Center Saturday, November 29, 2025, 10am-2pm

Event features: horse and wagon rides, holiday crafts, refreshments and a visit from Jolly Old St. Nick. And get a jump on your holiday shopping with special event savings in the gift shop.

Free Admission.

The Loon Center / 183 Lees Mill Rd.
 Moultonborough NH
 603-476-5666 <https://www.loon.org>

November Events at Nichols Memorial Library

Saturday, November 1st —Writer's Workshop
 with author/illustrator Karel Hayes, 9 am—12 pm.

No cost to attend; registration required

Tuesday, November 18th—Felted Animal Ornaments with Ann Xavier, 3-6 pm
 Cost—\$10; registration required

Thursdays—Chair Yoga. 10– 11 am.
 Class fee is by donation—give whatever you can afford.

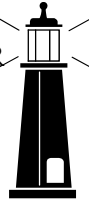
Register for programs by contacting the library at (603) 253-6950 or email centerharborlibrary@gmail.com

Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

November 2025

This month's mission: Interlakes Community Caregivers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Boldface = Church-sponsored events						1
Turn Clocks Back 2 10 am Worship 11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal	3	4 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	5 4 pm Al Anon, Gilpatric 5 pm Missions Mtg., Zoom	6 9 am Bible Study, Zoom	7 10 am Holly Fair Pricing, Gilpatric 8 pm AA (open meet- ing), Gilpatric	8
9 10 am Worship 11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal	10 6 pm Apple Pie Making, Kitchen/ Gilpatric	11 Veterans' Day 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	12 4:30 pm Dea- cons Mtg., Zoom	13 9 am Bible Study, Zoom 5:30 pm Humble Grunt Work, Gilpatric	14 8 pm AA (open meet- ing), Gilpatric	15
16 10 am Worship 11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal	17	18 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen 7 pm Cabinet Mtg.	19 10 am Holly Fair Table Set-Up 1 pm Holly Fair Tablecloths	20 9 am Bible Study, Zoom 9 am Holly Fair Display Set-Up	21 Holly Fair Remaining Set-Up 8 pm AA (open meet- ing), Parlor	22 8 am—2 pm Holly Fair
23 10 am Worship (Hanging of Greens) 11:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal	24	25 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 8 pm AA (open meet- ing), Gilpatric	29
30 10 am Worship (No Sunday School) 2 pm Christmas Concert	Church office Hours: Closed November 4th and 11th. Open 7:30 am—3:30 pm November 5th and 12th New Hours starting November 18th Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm					



The Thanksgivings (abridged)
Harriet Maxwell Converse (1836-1903)
Translated from a traditional Iroquois prayer

We who are here present thank the Great Spirit that we are here to praise Him.
We thank Him that He has created men and women, and ordered that these beings shall always be living to multiply the earth.
We thank Him for making the earth and giving these beings its products to live on.
We thank Him for the water that comes out of the earth and runs for our lands.
We thank Him for all the animals on the earth.
We thank Him for certain timbers that grow and have fluids coming from them for us all.
We thank Him for the branches of the trees that grow shadows for our shelter.
We thank Him for the beings that come from the west, the thunder and lightning that water the earth.
We thank Him for the light which we call our oldest brother, the sun that works for our good.
We thank Him for all the fruits that grow on the trees and vines.
We thank Him for his goodness in making the forests, and thank all its trees.
We thank Him for the darkness that gives us rest, and for the kind Being of the darkness that gives us light, the moon.
We thank Him for the bright spots in the skies that give us signs, the stars.
We give Him thanks for our supporters, who had charge of our harvests.
We give thanks that the voice of the Great Spirit can still be heard through the words of Ga-ne-o-di-o.
We thank the Great Spirit that we have the privilege of this pleasant occasion.
We give thanks for the persons who can sing the Great Spirit's music, and hope they will be privileged to continue in his faith.
We thank the Great Spirit for all the persons who perform the ceremonies on this occasion.

(This poem is in the public domain)

