

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

Special Offering this Month: Neighbors in Need

Letting Go

“Behold, I am making all things new.” ~ Revelation 21:5

Finally, the days are becoming a little cooler, and we’re pulling out our soup recipes and sweaters. Soon, that queen of New England delights will show up everywhere we look: the leaves will change color. People from all over will come to witness this beauty, sometimes by the bus-full. Our hillsides will resemble a massive quilt with reds, oranges, yellows, and the greens of interspersed evergreen trees.

Of course, the darker side of this beautiful phenomenon is that the leaves are dying, but they are dying so that the tree may live. The tree is letting them go intentionally. In summer, the broad leaves collected sunlight and held moisture. They turned that sunlight into sugar that fed the tree. But in a different season, those thin, broad leaves go from being life-giving to being a liability. Moisture would freeze and rupture the exposed cells of the leaves and they wouldn’t be able to photosynthesize, the weight of snow or force of wind on broad leaves could cause more limb breakage, and many leaves by the end of summer are partially eaten by insects or diseased anyway. The tree needs to change its strategy to fit the new environment.

So, the tree carefully stops the flow of water and nutrients to the leaf and instead builds a new layer of cells that cuts the connection between the branch and leaf. This takes time but it leaves the branch without an open wound that could get infected. And then, despite how essential the leaves were to the life of the tree in summer, it lets go of those leaves because they will not serve it in this new season. This decision made for life-sustaining reasons leaves the tree looking dead from the outside.

And it will look dead for a whole season. But those leaves aren’t done serving the tree yet. They will decompose at the tree’s base, giving nutrients to a new generation of leaves that will grow when the time is right. Can we look at things we love that may seem dead or dying to us, and see the nourishment they will give the new and different possibilities of the future? Beloveds, this season I pray we have the ability to let go of that which no longer serves us, the time to lament and heal that which we’ve lost, and the faith to trust that God is always making all things new. And, of course, I hope that you get a chance to appreciate the beauty of this season.

Blessed be,

Pastor Alison

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
Fall Office Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
12:30 - 4 PM



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Pastor Alison Thatcher
CHCCpastor@chccucc.org
Nancy Stamnas, Music Director
Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary
CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org
All Members: Ministers

Summer Comes to a Close

Summer wound down at Center Harbor Congregational Church with our last outdoor worship service on September 6th, giving away sweet treats at the Center Harbor Lantern Festival, and capping off the summer of ice cream socials with ice cream and songs in Gilpatric Hall.



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 21 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 know what you will be contributing. We are hoping for a nice variety of jams and pickles.

Thank you, Barb Edwards
1-603-533-5925



Holly Fair 2026

Can you hear the Christmas bells calling to you? Enthusiasm is building for the annual Holly Fair on November 21, from 8-2! The bells remind us that the Holly Fair is a churchwide, all hands on deck "fun"raiser. Our traditional and very popular gift baskets, overflowing with thoughtful items and adorned with beautiful bows, will be created in early October. Our business partners are currently being approached for the Silent Auction. You are reminded to let Barb Edwards know if you have jellies, jams, pickles or other items for the Country Store. A reminder to let Cindi Pelczar know of your hand crocheted/knitted items you plan to donate. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars for
November Holly Fair Work Dates

Monday, November 9 6:00 PM
Church Kitchen - Apple Pie-Making

Wednesday, November 18
- 10 AM Gilpatric Hall - Table and Sign Set-Up (Designated Crew)
- 1 PM in Gilpatric Hall - Tablecloths and Swags on Tables

Thursday, November 19 9:00 AM
Gilpatric Hall - Display Set-Up

Friday, November 20 Any remaining
Display Set-Up

Sunday School Lessons

We kicked off the Sunday school year on September 13th with Horton Center Day.

There were five children who were the recipients of the Bliss Fund this year which allowed them to spend up to two weeks at Horton Center over the summer. During our worship service on September 13th, the children as well as several adults spoke of their experiences during their time "on the mountain". Our special guest, Tivvi Pare, Executive Director of Horton Center, joined us in worship as well. She shared her perspective of how special it is to spend time in this "thin place". Ethan Larson played the guitar while he and Tivvi led us in camp songs. The day ended with a very special treat....smores!!



Join us for Sunday
School
October 4th, 18th,
and 25th this month!

This Month's Events



Thursday Bible Study

With Pastor Alison
October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
9 AM by Zoom
Check weekly e-mail for Zoom link!



Books & Bites

Come share what you've been reading!
October 20th at 1 PM in parlor
Contact: Jill Morton
(ladymort17@gmail.com) or Diane
Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)



October Mission of the Month: Neighbors in Need

Our special mission for October is Neighbors in Need (NIN), one of the four special offerings of the national United Church of Christ. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

News from the Board of Missions

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need

Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Thank you for your generous support of this UCC offering here at Center Harbor Congregational Church.



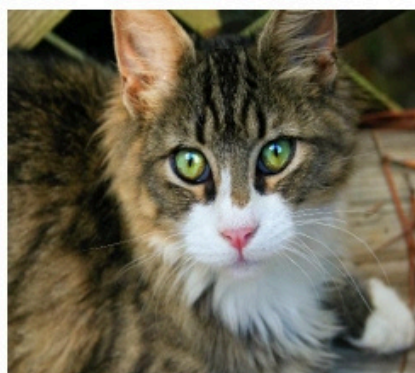
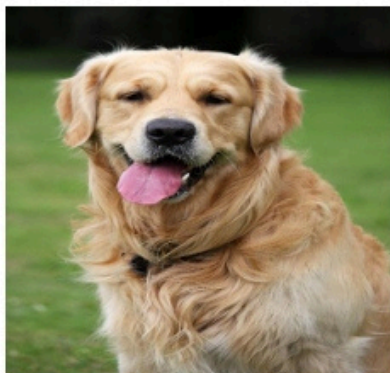
Missions Collections as of
September 29, 2026

Mission Name	Total Collected
Backpack Mission	\$748.00
Christmas Fund	\$190.00
Community Caregivers	\$140.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$675.00
Horton Center	\$590.00
Hunger	\$290.00
Medical Debt Relief	\$196.17
Ministry of Space	\$475.00
Neighbors in Need	\$60.00
New Beginnings	\$764.00
OCWM	\$1,195.00
OGHS	\$1,025.00
Strengthen the Church	\$170.00
Total:	\$6,518.17



Are you a Hannaford shopper? Purchase \$100 grocery cards with cash or check from the church each Sunday during Fellowship Hour and Hannaford will give us \$5 for each that you buy!

Paying for your groceries with these cards continues to earn your rewards to use and the cards will never expire.
Can't spend it all at once?
Use the balance the next time you shop!
Many thanks to all for supporting our church!



Annual Blessing of the Animals

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH AT 1:00PM

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO, Route 25 Meredith

(across from Moulton Farm)

Invitees: All pets who would like a blessing! Bring photos of deceased pets to be remembered as well.

If you have the opportunity to bring a gift for the **NH Humane Society** (monetary or otherwise), it would be greatly appreciated too. They could really use: paper towels, unscented bleach, soft catnip toys, pipe cleaners, Kong toys for dogs, crunchy cat treats, creamy peanut butter, dog training treats (chewy or jerky). Monetary gifts are also very welcome!

Kindly bring a leash or carrier (just in case) to ensure safety for all! For questions, contact Peg Gavenonis at 253-7418. Meow!

Happy Birthday

10/03 Natalie Smith
 10/07 John Eaton
 10/08 Joe McGrail
 10/16 Norman Larson
 10/17 Eric Larson
 10/17 Ann Koniszewski
 10/18 Charlotte Morrow
 10/23 Abby Olden
 10/25 Ethan Larson
 10/30 Patrick Curran (father)

Happy Anniversary

10/06 Louisa and Andy Cartier
 10/25 Kyle Libby and Tereza Vardanyan



Opportunities in Our Community

Streaming and Smart TVs

Virtual Workshop presented by
Senior Planet/AARP

Tuesday, October 6th 5-6 pm

Contact Nichols Memorial Library for
 information: (603)253-6950 or
centerharborlibrary@gmail.com

Fitness Opportunities at Center Harbor Library

Stretch, Strength and Balance - Wednesdays 10-11 am
 beginning September 30th through November 4th

Bring a mat, hand weights, and water

Suggested donation - \$5 per class to benefit library

Chair Yoga - TWO CLASS OPTIONS!

Fridays 9:30 am AND 11 am

Class is free (donations accepted)

Contact Nichols Memorial Library to register:
 (603)253-6950 or centerharborlibrary@gmail.com



Fall/Winter Kids Consignment Sale

Public Shopping: November 6-8, 2026

Geneva Point · Moultonborough, NH

Buy and sell children's clothing, toys, books, baby gear,
 winter gear, sports equipment, and more.

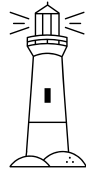
Learn more + register at

littlepinesmarket.com

BUY. SELL. GIVE BACK.

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	2 -8 PM AA	3
4 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal -1 PM Blessing of Animals, St. Charles	5	6 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	7 -5 PM Missions Meeting, by Zoom	8 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	9 -8 PM AA	10
11 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 -1:30 PM Cabinet Mtg, Parlor -4:30 PM Deacons Mtg, by Zoom -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	14	15 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	16 -8 PM AA	17
18 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	19	20 -1:30 PM Books and Bites, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	21	22 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	23 -8 PM AA	24 -5 pm Stewardship Dinner
25 -10 AM Worship Annual Meeting	26	27 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	28	29 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	30 -8 PM AA	31



Autumn

by Maeng Sa-song (1418 –1438)

As autumn enters this land of rivers and lakes,
even the fishes have become fat.

From a small boat, I fling my fishing net,
and let it trail with the tide.

This body's pleasure is also a debt
we owe to our great king.

This poem is in the public domain. *The Ever White Mountain; Korean Lyrics in the Classical Sijo Form* (Rutland, Vt., Tuttle, 1965).



Autumn by Joseph Rubens Powells, Curtesy
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC