

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

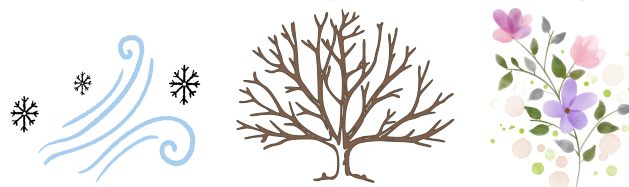
Special Offering this Month: One Great Hour of Sharing

A Purpose to Every Season

Is anyone ready for spring yet? Tired of shoveling walkways, slipping on ice, bundling up against the cold? That's a rhetorical question. March can feel like the longest month in New Hampshire, especially if you're not one for outdoor winter recreation. Thanks to Ecclesiastes (and The Birds) we have the message that "for everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." What purpose is this time for in your life? A time to mourn or a time to dance? A time to seek or a time to lose? A time to break down or a time to build up? Could there be a life-giving message in the times we would rather avoid or rush through?

And what purpose is this time for in the life of our church? Not just the liturgical season of Lent that we have entered into with Christians across the globe; but what is the purpose of Center Harbor Congregational Church in March of 2026? Are we in a time to mourn or a time to dance? A time to seek or a time to lose? A time to break down or a time to build up? It can be scary to think about times of trials in our church. But we are, after all, a community of messy, imperfect humans doing our best to discern God's will together. We are not immune to seasons of loss, mourning, and breaking down. And neither will we be denied seasons of dancing, seeking, and building up.

What season are you in today? If it is one you'd rather not to be in, can you still find a purpose in it? Can you see spring ahead of you? The returning of the light, of birdsong, of new life? What season do you see our church in? Can we take this season of Lent to heart and sit with discomfort and conflict, trusting that there is a purpose? Winter always ends with spring. Lent always ends with Easter. The frustrating part is that it's by God's design and timetable, not our own. Beloveds, my hope is that we may embrace the seasons of difficulty and discomfort, whether those be in our personal or corporate lives. That we may even discover a new purpose in them. And may we trust that spring, a time of dancing and seeking and building up, will surely come in God's time.



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:
 Tuesday 7:30 AM - 12 PM
 Wednesday 7:30 AM - 3 PM



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A.L.I.C.E. Training

A.L.I.C.E. training is the original active civilian shooter response program created to help people survive the unimaginable. It saves lives, builds confidence, and mitigates risk.

Alice stands for:

A... Alert – Be aware of your surroundings and recognize signs of danger through your senses or notifications like mobile alerts and announcements.

L...Lockdown – ALICE’s enhanced lockdown strategy buys time and fortifies safety when evacuation isn’t possible, keeping individuals secure until help arrives.

I...Inform – Real-time information saves lives. Sharing accurate, timely details with those in danger—such as intruder location or movement—

helps guide decision-making. **C...Counter** – As a last resort, Counter involves creating noise, movement, and distraction to disrupt the intruder’s focus. It is not synonymous with fighting.

Church Life

E...Evacuate – If safe, evacuate to distance yourself from the threat, using any available exits and moving to designated rally points, which should be practiced during drills.

On March 23rd from 9AM-noon Center Harbor UCC will participate and be trained in ALICE along with several other NH churches. The training will be by Zoom in Fellowship Hall. Hope you can join this important training. Let’s all be prepared for the unimaginable



Holly Fair 2026

We had a great turnout for our Holly Fair 2025 debrief meeting! Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Holly Fair on November 21st.



Amazing!

Our Church has earned over **\$1500** since Summer 2025 from Hannaford, thanks to you! Every \$100 grocery card you purchase from the church means more earnings from Hannaford. 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! Buy your grocery cards with cash or check from us each Sunday during Fellowship Hour! Many thanks to all for supporting our church!

This Month’s Events



Lenten Book Study

Tuesdays, 10 AM in Parlor
Now through April 7th
Discussion of *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach Us About Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem*



Thursday Bible Study

With Pastor Alison
March 5, 12, 19, and 26
9 AM by Zoom
Check weekly e-mail for Zoom link!



Books & Bites

Come share what you’ve been reading!
March 24th at 1:30 PM in parlor
Contact: Jill Morton
(ladymort17@gmail.com or Diane Crawford onie54@gmail.com)

Sunday School Lessons

Using parables that Jesus spoke of in the Bible, the children learned how to grow God’s kingdom. They heard the stories of the mustard seed and the yeast as well as the two builders. Each of these stories showed the students how their faith can grow and be strong. In conjunction with the stories, the children sang stories about the Fruits of Spirit. Ask the children what some of the Fruits of the Spirit are.

Horton Center Registration

Horton Center Registration for summer programs is open and ongoing. Sunday school students are encouraged to register for camp and then can request a campership through BOCE. CHCC’s Bliss Fund is used to support our Sunday School students who wish to attend camp.

And Horton Center is not just for kids! They have a variety of family and adult programs throughout the summer. Check out what you could do on Pine Mountain! Summer 2026 brochure is available in the office.

News from the Board of Christian Education



Souper Bowl Sunday

For this year’s Souper Bowl Sunday, Sunday School students teamed up with the Missions Board to go on defense against hunger! Students introduced the congregation to Souper Bowl Sunday and encouraged people to bring in cans of soup to fill the pots.

In addition to Souper Bowl Sunday, February’s Mission of the Month was Hunger Action. Every Sunday non-perishable food has been brought in, creating quite an obstacle course for Pastor Alison. Food donations will still be accepted until March 1st.

Do you want our little church on the hill to shine this spring? You can help!!

Indoor Spring Cleaning

Friday, March 6th, 10 AM – 2 PM
(with a break for provided lunch)

Deep clean of church kitchens and lower floor windows. Jobs for all ability levels! Sign up during fellowship hour or in the church office.

Outdoor Spring Cleaning

Saturday, March 28th, 9 AM - 1 PM
Bring rakes, brooms, and clippers!

Cleaning up damage from plowing, front yard of church, and other miscellaneous tasks.

This spring let’s be proud of our little church on the hill!

The Impending Arrival of Spring

As I write this in mid-February, I am looking out at deeply snow-covered fields with predictions of another 6 inches of snow over the next ten days. But my thoughts are turning towards Spring and the plethora of things that will have to be done soon to be ready for the warmer weather. I have lots to do around my house, but this is also a busy time for CHCC.

Before the snow is likely to be gone, we are going to start with a new initiative, an inside Spring Cleanup on Friday, March 6th. Please sign up if you can help. We are waiting to rebuild the ramp behind Gilpatric Hall because our plans got snowed out in the Fall. The time for that is TBD.

Easter is on the early side this year and so will be our outside spring cleanup, scheduled for Saturday March 28th, 9 am -1 pm. The good news is that the Cabinet has approved Cook Country Property Management (CCPM) to clean the sand out of our parking lots for a really good price. In addition, CCPM is going to clear out the long garden again as a community service. This makes our worklist for the cleanup day much more manageable. I will blow out the grass areas around the church ahead of time. This leaves just cleaning up some inevitable

plow damage, cleaning up the front of the church, and possibly a few other miscellaneous tasks. It's also time to remind all of you about the helpful work both CCPM and Fullerton Landscaping, our plowing company, do for us. If you need some outside work done this year, please give them some consideration for your business. It's a nice way to say THANKS to them.

Property Committee News

We are getting ready for our annual round of inspections of our safety systems and the Fire Department inspection for our Occupancy Permit renewal. We did a lot of work last year to bring things up to snuff, so the Fire Chief should be smiling as he walks around, and WE should have a sense of accomplishment for the stewardship of our building and for the safety of the people in it.

Finally, as we move into the enjoyable warmer months, there are some things we may not be so grateful for, pests. JP Pest Service treats our building for mice, squirrels, and ants. There are a couple of different viewpoints on how to deal with

varmints. One is to trap them and toss them out. The problem is, you need to continually monitor the traps, and this is an expensive proposition. The alternative that we use is to bait with substances that create thirst, forcing critters to go outside to get water and die outside. The drawback to this is that it doesn't always work. Occasionally, the critters cannot get out and die inside. A smell can be noticeable that lasts for several days. The treatment of ants follows a more modern approach. Slow killing bait is put out that ants carry back to their nest, and it kills the whole nest. However, this can take some time to work. Meanwhile, you don't want to kill the ants you might see because they are doing the job of attacking the nest. When you notice pest intrusion, leave a note with Louisa. JP Pest checks with the office when they come in to see if there are areas that need attention. In addition, Mosquito Squad sprays the outside areas monthly during the warmer months to repel mosquitoes and ticks.

-Jeff Koniszewski

Calling all Crafters
Do you know someone who makes and sells something?
Let them know about CHCC's
Craft Fair!
July 11th
Contact Office for Registration

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Our March Mission of the Month is the One Great Hour of Sharing. As some of you may remember, OGHS was started as an ecumenical offering to respond to the great need for help of so many people after WW II. It was probably the first time that people of different faiths came together to respond as one to the tragedies that had befallen so many people.

75+ years later, we continue to join with other Christians to respond to the pain and hunger caused by wars, floods and fires. This year's theme is "Our Love Offering to the World." In the Apostle Paul's stewardship campaign, he called for members to set aside money each week, above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings, to help Christians in Jerusalem. The offering was a gift, with no strings attached, no expectation of repayment or reward, and no ulterior motives. This collection was a love offering, embodying the word of Jesus: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35, NIV).

Imagine being in desperate need and seeing a truck bringing food because someone cared in the US. We are not able to respond to each



News from the Board of Missions

challenge that comes up, but we can shine a light into the darkness that overcomes so many people's lives.

We have been in the top 50 UCC churches in per capita giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Let's hold our place as we offer love to the world!

ISAIAH 61Café

The Isaiah 61 Café in Laconia is a homeless outreach center helping people in need through a variety of ways. Since 2018, this nonprofit provides a place for people to eat hot meals, as well as a place to shower, do laundry and store their belongings. This café is like home to those in need and everyone who enters is considered a friend.

In the past, CHCC has helped fill a **large box with plastic eating utensils, paper plates and bowls, and paper towels** to be used at their daily meals. Again, the box in Gilpatric Hall is waiting to be filled with these useful items... all working together to serve those who are facing hunger at this time.

Celtic Music Concert

Tre Voci
Piano Trio

Harp and
Irish Session
Music

Center Harbor Congregational Church - 52 Main St. Center Harbor
Saturday, March 14th, 3 PM

Free and Open to the Public - Refreshments Served after the Performance

Happy Birthday

3/01 Margaret Cooper

3/03 Sally Lyon

3/07 Jim Swanson

3/07 Martha Johnson

3/13 Donald Edwards

3/20 Jane Hilder

3/22 Emma Olden

3/28 Brian Knight

3/30 Betsy Vazifdar

Opportunities in Our Community

Free AARP HomeFit Presentation

Saturday, March 28

10 am – 11:30 am

Online or In Person at the James E. Nichols Library
35 Plymouth St., Center Harbor, NH

Do you want to stay in your own home for as long as possible?

This HomeFit presentation will show you how!

You may attend by Zoom or in person.

Joining in person?

The presentation will be shown at the Nichols Memorial Library, 35 Plymouth St., Center Harbor

Joining at home?

No problem. We'll provide you with a link.

AARP surveys consistently find that older adults want to remain in their current homes and communities for as long as possible. Yet barely one percent of the nation's housing supply contains any "universal design" elements—such as single story living or a sink that can be reached from a wheelchair. That's where AARP HomeFit comes in! This presentation shares tips, some simple, some requiring a professional, that will help individuals and families make their current or future residence – or that of a loved one – their "lifelong home."

There is no cost to attend this informative presentation. We only ask you to pre-register to attend by Friday, March 20, 2026. You may attend either online or at the Library.

Call us at (603) 253-6950

or email us today at centerharborlibrary@gmail.com

so that we can pre-register you, and provide you with the link to join if viewing from home.



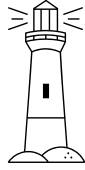
WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

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

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 -10 AM Worship (No Sunday School) Congregation Meeting	2	3 -10 AM Lenten Book Group, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	4 -5 PM Missions Meeting, by Zoom	5 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	6 -10 AM - 2 PM Indoor Spring Cleaning -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	7
8 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10 -10 AM Lenten Book Group, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -4:30 PM Deacons Meeting, by Zoom	11	12 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	13 -10 AM Interlakes Community Caregivers -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	14 -3 PM Tre Voci Concert, Sanctuary
15 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17 -10 AM Lenten Book Group, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -7 PM Cabinet Mtg, Parlor	18	19 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	20 -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	21
22 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsall	23 -8:30 AM - 12 PM ALICE Training, Gilpatric	24 -10 AM Lenten Book Group, Parlor -1:30 PM Books and Bites, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	25	26 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	27 -10 AM Holly Fair Crafting, Gilpatric -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	28 -9 AM Outdoor Spring Cleaning
29 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsall	30	31 -10 AM Lenten Book Group, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen				



#2060

By U Tak (1262-1342)

The spring breeze melted away the snow
on the hills and was quickly gone without a trace
Would that I borrowed it briefly
to blow through my hair;
I wish to blow away the ageing frost
thickening behind my ears.

This poem is in the public domain. *Classical Korean Poetry: More Than 600 Verses since the 12th Century* (Fremont, California: Asian Humanities Press, 1994).



Northern Landscape, Spring by Caspar David Friedrich (1825).
Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.