

# THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 46 No. 4

Special offering this month: *New Beginnings*

April 2024



## *Changes Coming in the New Hampshire Conference*

There are some big structural changes coming in the New Hampshire Conference this year. Presently, the Conference is composed of seven Associations. Ours is the Merrimack Association, and it is one of the most active Associations in the state. Our elected positions are all staffed, and we have led the way in providing programs at the Association level that smaller churches cannot provide for themselves, such as Confirmation class.

Several of the other Associations, however, simply do not have the number of churches, settled clergy, and interested lay persons to fill their officer and committee roles, so that for the past several years it has been impossible for these Associations to hold business meetings with a proper quorum, or have someone to sign checks, field a committee on church and ministry to authorize ministry, or hold ordinations or installations. For these Associations, the basic work of the wider church just isn't getting done right now, and some of the churches themselves feel disconnected from one another.

So, last fall, the Merrimack Association and five other Associations in New Hampshire voted to move to a "Conference Acting as Association" model, which is already in use in several other smaller states. One Association, Grafton-Orange-Sullivan, has not yet voted to join the new model, and may not do so. That Association includes churches from both New Hampshire and Vermont, and its two-state status predates the establishment of the United Church of Christ in 1957, so its case is much more complicated.

Under the new model, all the necessary functions of Associations – authorizing ministry, supporting local churches, preparing candidates for ordination, managing business affairs, etc. – will be handled by committees at the Conference level. We are already sharing responsibility Conference-wide in preparation of candidates for ordination and in overseeing clergy where there are questions of fitness for ministry, so moving to the new model where all Association responsibilities are shared

Continued on Page 2

**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  
Tel/Fax: (603) 253-8668  
**Office Hours:**  
Tues./Wed. 8:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Thurs. 8:30 am - 10:30 am  
Website: [www.chccucc.org](http://www.chccucc.org)

**S** *The Rev. Cathy Turrentine*  
*Cathryn.turrentine999@gmail.com*

**t** *Nancy Stamnas, Music Director*  
*Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary*  
E-mail: [CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org](mailto:CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org)

**a** *All Members: Ministers*

**f**  
**Deacon of the month:**  
Ann Koniszewski

**f**  
**Trustee of the Month:**  
Lee Woodworth

**The Village Preschool**  
*Laura Curran*  
455-1067

Continued from Page 1

across the Conference should be a good fit for us. It will also make our work much more efficient. Conference-wide right now, there are about one hundred Association-level positions to fill (seven moderators, seven treasurers, seven scribes, seven committees on church and ministry, etc.). Under the new model, there will be only about fifty positions to fill. This is a year of transition to the new model – sharing information widely and meeting legal requirements. Recently, I agreed to step in as Merrimack Association secretary specifically because the Association cannot legally dissolve itself without a secretary to sign the documentation. We will meet as the Merrimack Association this spring (April 14 in North Barnstead) and again in the fall, and then – hopefully – we will be ready to move fully into the new Conference Acting as Association model in 2025.

Please be in prayer for all the churches in New Hampshire as we move into this exciting new way of being in covenant with one another as the Body of Christ.

*Pastor Cathy*

## Church Life

### Books & Bites

#### Great Books, Great Treats

The Books & Bites group met on March 19th to enjoy some snacks and discuss the great, and not so great, books they have been reading. Recommendations include James McBride's *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* about a Jewish and African American neighborhood in Pennsylvania, Glen



Treats at March's Books and Bites

Stout's *Young Woman and the Sea* about Trudy Ederle swimming across the English channel, and *More Than Words: Stories of Courage* a book containing three novellas by Susan Wiggs, Sharon Sala, and Emilie Richards where each novella presents a character inspired by a real-life winner of Harlequin's *More Than Words* award.

If you love to talk about books, have a great read you want to share, or even if you are just looking for book recommendations, join the Books & Bites group! The group meets the third Tuesday of every month in the parlor. Next meeting will be April 16th!

### Holly Fair 2024

#### Preparation Has Already Begun!

The Holly Fair crafters were busy in March! On March 1st they made baskets full of holiday themed jewelry. They made fun snowmen using window shutters at the March 8th session! The next craft session is scheduled for April 5th, craft to be determined. Do you have a great craft idea?







Thanks to Diane Crawford and Ann Koniszewski for the delightful update of our picture bulletin board! Diane took many of the photos and Ann put the board together. It is a welcome sight and will be especially helpful to newer folks.



## Little Free PANTRY DONATIONS

Because of contributions made for the Hunger Action mission in February, we are well stocked with canned goods. Thank you for your donations!

Items that we are in need of:

- **Bread (this is a very popular item)**
- Cereal (sweetened cereals are especially popular)
- PB and Jelly
- Nuts/crackers/bars
- Lunch on the Run or Snack boxes
- Rice and Pasta mixes (the Knorr ones that just need boiling water are popular)

Donations may be placed in the bin labeled "Little Free Pantry" in the church office.

**Thank you for participating in this mission.**

# Mark Your Calendars

## ***Books 'n Bites***

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

Come and share what you've been reading!

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

Interested? Contact Diane Crawford or Jill Morton

## ***Diary of a Jesus Tagalong Discussion Group***

Wednesdays at 10 am in the Parlor

Join author Carol Asher for a weekly discussion session of her book. The group will meet every Wednesday to mid-May.

See Fred Doscher or Cindy Thompson to purchase a copy of the book for \$12

## **Holly Fair Craft Session**

April 5th, 10 am

Craft TBD

Please join us in Gilpatric Hall

Registration Link: [Model Seder - Temple B'nai Israel \(tbinh.org\)](http://ModelSeder-TempleBnaiIsrael.tbinh.org)

Questions? - Contact Rabbi Jan Katz - [rabi@tbinh.org](mailto:rabi@tbinh.org)

# News from the Board of Missions

April Mission of the Month: **New Beginnings**



Spring is arriving, and with it the promise of new beginnings in the form of flower petals, the smell of fresh earth, and the warm sun on our faces. In April, we ask that you support the Mission of the Month, New Beginnings. Their mission statement is:

*“New Beginnings – Without Violence & Abuse is dedicated to ending sexual, domestic, and stalking violence through the provision of safe and effective services, including emergency refuge and support; and works toward social change by promoting an effective community response to violence.”*

Their philosophy is that no one deserves to be beaten or raped or to live in fear of being beaten or raped. Domestic violence, including emotional, physical and verbal abuse, as well as sexual assault are intolerable and must be abolished from our society.

To meet this mission, the organization offers a shelter and emergency food, clothing and supplies to victims. New Beginnings also offers a 24-hour hotline for people experiencing abuse and support for their children who have witnessed or been affected by domestic or sexual violence. They also offer advocates to accompany victims to the police or to court, one-to-one peer support, as well as larger support groups.

As you can imagine, New Beginnings provides essential support to people in crisis. Please consider supporting this very important work as you make your gift this month. Thank you!

## 2024 Contributions to Missions (as of March 26th)

Christmas Angel Fund	\$30	Deacon’s Fund	\$160
I.L. Community Caregivers	\$60	25-40	\$50
New Beginnings	\$65	Neighbors in Need	\$50
OCWM	\$1,166.56	Hunger Action	\$320
OGHS	\$652	Backpacks, Blankets, & Tools	\$296.30
Habitat for Humanity	\$50	Strengthen the Church	\$130
United Campus Ministry	\$40	Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross	\$478
Disaster Relief		Camp Resilience	
Medical Debt Relief		Ministry of Space	\$30
Chocorua Chapel		Lakes Region Food Pantry	

Total: 3,577.86





## Sunday School

## News

## Village Preschool

Our April lessons in Sunday School will focus on how Jesus prepares his followers to share the good news (April 7) and how we as followers of Jesus can image a different kind of kingdom, grounded in peace (April 14). We will not have Sunday School during Spring Break, April 21 and 28, and will resume again on May 5.

### UCC Climate Hope Art Contest



To give our children and youth a voice this election season, while also reminding adults of their responsibility for the next generation, the UCC is conducting a Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest. **From now until April 16th, art submissions will be accepted.**

UCC children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color about the world and the environment in which they want to live. What are their hopes for the world? What is it that they value and want to have protected? What is it that adults should remember and take to heart when they vote this year. The UCC will accept art submissions from March 1 to April 16. An online award ceremony for finalists will be held on May 4, and the winning art will be featured on "Climate Hope Voter Pledge Cards" that church members throughout the UCC will collect during the summer and fall before Election Day.

Questions about the art contest can be addressed to Reverend Dr. Brooks Berndt at [berndtb@ucc.org](mailto:berndtb@ucc.org). The church is already registered for the contest, so those children interested can get more information from Pam Brown.

### Horton Center hosts SOLO Schools Wilderness First Aid Course June 8-9, 2024

Lodging and meals area available as well as add-on certifications (CPR and Wilderness First Responder recertification).

More Info: [Horton Center WFA \(regfox.com\)](https://www.regfox.com)

Horton Center Summer Program registration is now open. 2024 program brochure is available in the church office.



Preschoolers have been busy looking for signs of spring! They have also been exploring science in the classroom. Science is fun!



Preschool will be closed the week of April 22nd for school vacation.





04/03 Janet Nunamacher  
 04/04 Lee Woodworth  
 04/07 Paula Young  
 04/10 Laura Curran  
 04/17 Thais St. Clair  
 04/23 Laurie Burke  
 04/28 Dave Brown  
 04/29 Joe Crawford



04/13 Nancy and Chris Stamnas  
 04/27 Joe and Diane Crawford



Church Office Closures

The church office will be closed  
 April 22nd to April 26th.

The office will reopen on Monday April 29th  
 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm then be closed the remainder of that week.

Sorry for any inconvenience these closures may cause.

**Opportunities In Our Community**

**Are you an adult 60 years or older looking to stretch your food budget?**  
 NH Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) can help!

CSFP can provide healthy foods to supplement your food budget. This will help lower your monthly grocery bill. The value of the food you receive is approximately \$50 per month.

Contact Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc. for more information:  
 603-225-2050 or 800-578-2050

**Transportation Survey**

Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council helps organize transportation services around the southern Lakes Region. They are looking for help determining residents' wants and needs for services.

Your input can be heard by filling out their survey at:

<https://midstatercc.org/>

Pemi-Baker Hospice & Home Health  
 Free Support Groups

Caregivers Support Group  
 1st Wednesday of the month  
 10 am - 101 Boulder Point Dr., Plymouth  
 Pre-registration required

Contact: Guy Tillson, Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator  
 gtillson@pghha.org  
 (603) 536-2232

**Can You Tell Us Why CHCC is Special?**

We are looking for volunteers to be featured in the "Why CHCC?" section of our Blog where members share what makes CHCC special to them. All it takes is to answer a few questions!

You can visit our website to see the already published "Why CHCC?" articles. (Choose "Blog" under "About Us".)

**Please volunteer by contacting the secretary.**

# Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

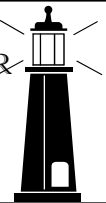
## April 2024

### This month's mission: New Beginnings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>Boldface = Church-sponsored events</b>	1	2  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	3  10:00 am <b>Book Discus- sion, Parlor</b>  5:00 pm Mis- sions Mtg. <b>Zoom</b>  6:30 pm AA	4	5  10:00 am <b>Holly Fair Craft Ses- sion, Gilpatric</b>  8:00 pm AA	6		
7  10:00 am Wor- ship	8	9  4:00 pm <b>Trus- tees, Parlor</b>  4:30 pm <b>Dea- cons, Zoom</b>  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	10  10:00 am <b>Book Discus- sion, Parlor</b>  6:30 pm AA	11  9:00 am <b>Bible Study, Zoom</b>	12  8:00 pm AA	13		
14  10:00 am Wor- ship	15	16  1:30 pm <b>Books &amp; Bites</b>  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  7:00 pm <b>Cabi- net, Zoom</b>	17  10:00 am <b>Book Discus- sion, Parlor</b>  5:00 pm Hum- ble Grunt Work  6:30 pm AA	18  9:00 am <b>Bible Study, Zoom</b>	19  8:00 pm AA	20		
21  10:00 am Wor- ship (No Sunday School)	22	23  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	24  10:00 am <b>Book Discus- sion, Parlor</b>  6:30 pm AA	25  9:00 am <b>Bible Study, Zoom</b>	26  8:00 pm AA	27		
<b>Church Office Closed</b>								
28  10:00 am Wor- ship (No Sunday School)	29  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Church Office Open 8:30 am to 3:30 pm</div>	30  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Church Office Closed</div>	<p><b>Questions? Call the secretary during Office/Sanctuary Hours:</b>  <b>Tues. &amp; Wed., 8:30 am - 1:30 pm</b>  <b>Thurs., 8:30 am - 10:30 am</b>                      or leave a message:  <b>(603) 253-7698</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org">CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org</a></b></p>					

**THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT**  
 Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC  
 PO Box 229  
 Center Harbor NH 03226-0229  
 www.CHCCucc.org  
 CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org



<p>THE          CENTER HARBOR          LIGHT          April 2024</p> 	<p>We are a church whose members love and value each other. Our faith community is a force for caring and sharing God's love in local and wider communities. As members, we learn, grow and serve together to do God's work with faith, compassion and respect.</p>
--	---

All are Welcome

# Monadnock in Early Spring

By Amy Lowell (1874-1925)

Cloud-topped and splendid, dominating all  
 The little lesser hills which compass thee,  
 Thou standest, bright with April's buoyancy,  
 Yet holding Winter in some shaded wall  
 Of stern, steep rock; and startled by the call  
 Of Spring, thy trees flush with expectancy  
 And cast a cloud of crimson, silently,  
 Above thy snowy crevices where fall  
 Pale shrivelled oak leaves, while the snow beneath  
 Melts at their phantom touch. Another year  
 Is quick with import. Such each year has been.  
 Unmoved thou watchest all, and all bequeath  
 Some jewel to thy diadem of power,  
 Thou pledge of greater majesty unseen.



This poem is in the public domain.

<p>In This          Issue...</p>	<p><i>Pastor's Message</i>.....Pages 1-2</p>
	<p><i>Church Life</i> ..... Page 2-3</p>
	<p><i>Board of Missions</i>..... Page 4</p>
	<p><i>School News</i>.....Page 5</p>
	<p><i>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</i> .....Page 6</p>
	<p><i>Church Activity Calendar</i>.....Page 7</p>