

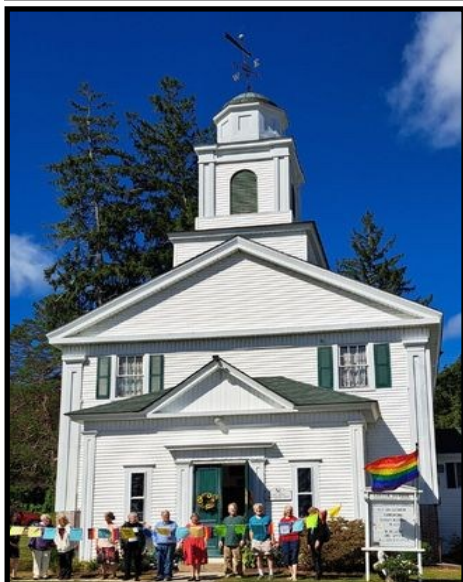
THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 7

Special offering this month: *Strengthen the Church*

July 2025



A Church in Transition...

We said “goodbye” to Cathy on June 1st, and we’ve begun our time between pastors. So on June 8th we enjoyed the beach balls and the Spirit, we’ve welcomed the Church of Another Chance on June 15th, celebrating the beauty of everyone’s life, and on June 22nd and June 29th we welcomed Alison Thatcher as pulpit supply and now continue with her as our Transitional Pastor. What a gift she will be, when we had been told there would be no one for our interim period.

We are not a “normal” church; we are small yet so vibrant, our young people echoing the creative spirit of our adults. For me, the highlight of the month was having our young people assist with communion on June 1st.

We now move into our “summer” mode with worship outside and lemonade on the lawn, giving thanks for the life we have together!

Report of the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee received 12 applications this year, 5 from Interlakes H.S. and 7 from Moultonborough Academy. All the applications were complete this year, unlike the past few years. This year’s recipients are:

Interlakes-----Alec Adorno, Brogan Donnelly, Meredith Gerken, Jennifer Madigan, and Delaney Sleeper

M.A.-----Shelby Clifford and Daniel Tolman

The total amount awarded from the Scholarship Trust was \$5000.

Thanks again to all the committee members, Don Edwards, Barb Edwards, Dean Gulezian, and Janet Gulezian, for their time, input and hard work. Without them, this process could not occur.

Tre Voce Concert Rescheduled

The Tre Voce concert, A Day in the Garden, that was cancelled in June has been rescheduled to Sunday, July 6th at 2 pm. Please join us in the sanctuary for a concert featuring music about gardens and flowers. All are welcome to this free concert. Refreshments will be served following the show.

Activity Planning in the Works

In continuing with church members/friends sponsoring social activities, we are gaging interest in two possible activity options. One option would be an evening portrait painting class with materials being provided by the host. No skills required; you provide a sense of humor.

Another fun chance to be creative would be an evening drum circle. Again, no materials or experience needed. If you would be interested in either of these activities, please let Louisa know.

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./Thurs. 8:30 - 11:30 am

Wed. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Website: www.chccucc.org

S

Pastor Alison Thatcher
CHCCpastor@chccucc.org

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Nancy Stamnas, Music Director

a

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

f

All Members: Ministers

Deacon:

Norman Larson
603-387-2489

Property Team:

Jeff Koniszewski
603-521-4473

Notes from the June Cabinet Meeting

In its meeting on Tuesday, June 17th, the Cabinet:

- Shared ideas and hopes for discerning God's will in doing church planning;
- Approved minutes of Cabinet meeting of May 13 and May 20 with thanks to the Clerk;
- Approved the Treasurer's Report with thanks to the Treasurer;
- Elected Ann Koniszewski as Vice Moderator for the remainder of the year (decision to fill this position was at the request of the Moderator);
- Planned for the locking of the office for security and approved the plan for monitoring the panic button alarm as part of the security work;
- Reviewed start-up plans for the transitional Pastor;
- Reviewed the Pastor Relations committee serving as the Personnel Committee;
- Acknowledged minutes from the Mission, Deacons, Finance, Property and Christian Education.

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

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be July 15th at 7 PM by Zoom.

New Vice Moderator...

As indicated in the Cabinet Wrap Up, Ann Koniszewski was elected by the Cabinet to serve as the Vice Moderator for the remainder of the year. She will be available to fill in when Fred is unavailable and to consult as needed on administrative issues. Thanks Ann!

Property Corner—CHCC “Spring” Cleaning By Jeff K for the Property Group

Laura Curran suggested we should have an inside Spring cleanup as well as outside. Well, maybe not “Spring” because between inspections and outside cleanup, there is not a lot of time for inside cleanup as well. But cleanup, both “annual” and “one-shot” things that have been neglected for a while, is needed. I sat down with Laura to get a list of things that have caught her attention and here is what we came up with:

- Downstairs kitchen—thorough cleaning, culling of dishes (if necessary), boxing remaining dishes to keep them clean in the cabinets.
- Upstairs kitchen—annual deep cleaning
- Downstairs bathrooms— new paint, replace stained ceiling tiles
- Closets—clean, organize, and dispose of unneeded materials (annually). Some of that work is already in progress.

Several people have recently refreshed the Gilpatric Hall bathroom by doing a thorough cleaning and painting a pretty blue color. It looks GREAT! In addition, the floors have been thoroughly scrubbed and decades(?) of buildup has been removed and they look amazingly better. There is more of the floor to do so you can see the before and after. There are a few stubborn stains which we are working on removing.

The small outside sign board has been refurbished. It was dirty and many of the letters had faded badly and were yellowed. It turns out that the yellowing can be washed off with a little warm water, Dawn detergent, and some elbow grease. The

faded letters were touched up with a permanent marker and we will see how that holds up over time. In addition, it turns out we had multiple sets of 2” letters, some in pretty good shape and some we have refurbished. The plexiglass cover was washed off. By the time you read this, the paint on the wood parts will have been redone.

Now I want to ask for feedback from the Congregation about any other “Spring” Cleaning tasks to consider. The Property Group will review and prioritize the final list and start on these tasks.

CHCC Maintenance—Like your home, the church needs regular attention and repairs. Major systems, like furnaces, are checked annually and dealt with as other problems occur. However, a lot of wear and tear happens over time. Here is a list of maintenance items the Property Group is looking at:

- Replace ramp decking (Planned for this fall)
- Add a Timed gas shutoff on the gas to the stove
- Replace damaged siding on garage
- Redo the trim paint on garage
- Power wash church
- Paint Gilpatric Hall
- Repair the door frame on garage
- Access/repair broken chairs (18 in garage)
- Redo the Sanctuary storm window caulking
- Repair the broken Sanctuary window counter-weight rope

Again, I want to ask for feedback from the Congregation about any other Maintenance tasks to consider. The Property Group will review and prioritize the final list. Please contact me with suggestions at Jknh0987@gmail.com or drop a note in my mailbox in the church office.

Flea Market & Craft Fair



Volunteers Needed for July 12th Event

Saturday, July 12th from 8 am to 2 pm will be CHCC's annual Flea Market & Craft Fair. We have over 25 vendors registered for the event. These vendors will sell their hand-crafted wares such as jewelry, home décor, bags, paintings, and quilted items to name just a few. We truly will have a wide-variety of shopping! CHCC will have a garage sale section and be selling strawberry shortcake, hot dogs, baked goods, and drinks.

This is a key fundraiser for us and there are different places to help:

- Post advertising flyers in public spaces (flyers can be picked up in the church office)
- Donate sellable garage sale items especially seasonal items (e.g. summer sports equipment or furniture) - items can be brought to church in the morning on Friday, July 11th (Contact Louisa in the office 603-253-7698 if you would like to drop items earlier than that)
- Food donations and prep—we are still looking for baked goods and other food donations—donations can be dropped off during office hours or the morning of the fair (call Barb Edwards 603-533-5925 or sign up at church)
- Setting up food service the morning of the fair and during fair (call Barb Edwards)
- Setting up/working at the garage sale (e-mail Hettie Buck hjbuck99@aol.com)
- Cleaning up after the fair (Contact Hettie)

Thank you in advance for helping make this event a success, and don't forget to come out on the 12th!



FLEA MARKET & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, July 12th

8:00 AM—2:00 PM

FEATURING:

OVER 25 VENDORS WITH
HANDCRAFTED ITEMS,
ANTIQUES, AND MORE.

**PLUS: CHURCH-SPONSORED GARAGE SALE,
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, BAKED GOODS**



Holly Fair Work

In June, crafters met to make wooden snowmen to sell at the Holly Fair. The results are very cute and sure to fly out the door!



Do you have an idea for another group craft project you would like to share and lead one day this summer? If you are not available on Fridays, throw out another day of the week for consideration. Summer often means a change in people's schedules. Contact Ann Koniszewski (alibby1@icloud.com) if you would like to host a craft session.

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, July 22nd at 1:30 pm

Contact Jill Morton (ladymort17@gmail.com) or

Diane Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)

Lawn Mowing Sign Up

Lawn mowing has started. Thank you to the many people who have signed up to mow in June and July. There are still opportunities to mow in August and September.

You can sign up on Sunday or call Louisa, and she can fill in your name on the sheet.



Summer Ice Cream Socials

Join us every Thursday at a new location! Ice cream socials in July will be at 6:30 pm at the following locations:



- July 3—Ollie's, Center Harbor
- July 10—Town Docks, Meredith
- July 17—Happy Cow, Union Ave. Laconia
- July 24—Liliuokalani's, Pausus Bay in the Weirs
- July 31—Social Club, Elm St. Lakeport

Library Seeks Volunteers

The James Nichols Memorial Library has received a grant from the AARP for outdoor furniture! They are looking for volunteers (ideally people who have power tools) who can help assemble and install four picnic tables, four Adirondack chairs, four umbrellas and umbrella stands, and two signs on the library grounds. This event is tentatively planned for Saturday, August 9th at 9 am with a rain date of August 16th.

To volunteer, please contact library director, Linda Verge, at the library, by e-mail (centerharborlibrary@gmail.com), or by calling 603-253-6950. Volunteers must sign a waiver by July 23rd, which can be given to the library director, Linda Verge, or delivered to the Select Board on Wednesday, July 23rd. The waiver is available in the church office.

News from the Board of Missions

July Mission of the Month—Strengthen the Church

Strengthen the Church is one of the four UCC national offerings that our church supports.

Grants bestowed through this special offering are used for leadership development, new church establishments, youth ministries, and innovative programs in existing churches. Together these help build the nation-wide Body of Christ.

Each donation to our Strengthen the Church Offering plants a seed of hope into fertile ground. Generous gifts to the offering empower both new and rebirthing churches, guiding them toward financial sustainability with four-year grants. You contribute more than a gift; you build a legacy in communities across our nation—to encourage inclusive, expansive, and thriving congregations.

Our gifts ensure that our churches can continue to serve and uplift communities across the nation.

Please support this July “Mission of the Month” with a generous offering.

Medical Debt Relief... the Power of a Penny

In America, medical debt is the number one reason for bankruptcy in people who encounter that debt as a result of an unexpected illness or accident. Families find themselves unable to pay and unable to get out of the fearsome financial hole.

During the past several summers, we at Center Harbor Congregational Church have contributed spare change to bring relief to those unable to pay medical bills. There is an organization who can buy back medical debt at pennies per dollar... that is, for every penny we donate, \$1.00 of medical debt can be paid for some eligible family. Just think of it... one dollar will relieve \$1,000 of medical debt!

Last summer our spare change collected in the big jar on Sunday mornings totaled almost \$700! We were able to relieve the worry, anxiety and medical debt for some families across America to the tune of \$70,000!

The big jar will again welcome your spare change with the hope of relieving this worry for our brothers and sisters across the land. Thank you for emptying your pockets and your purses of spare change to prove the “power of a penny”!

2025 Contributions to Missions (June 25th)

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Backpacks | \$350 |
| Camp Resilience | \$212 |
| Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross | \$427 |
| Deacon's Fund | \$225 |
| Interlakes Community Caregivers | \$30 |
| Habitat for Humanity | \$30 |
| Horton Center | \$499 |
| Hunger Action | \$205 |
| Ministry of Space | \$30 |
| Neighbors in Need | \$30 |
| New Beginnings | \$709 |
| OCWM | \$1,226 |
| OGHS | \$539 |
| Strengthen the Church | \$30 |
| Total | \$4,542 |

Little Free PANTRY DONATIONS

Summer Donation Ideas



- Cereal (sweetened cereals are especially popular)
- Freezer pops (the long ones that come thawed then get frozen)
- Soups and stews with pull-top lids/Rice and Pasta Mixes
- Nuts/crackers/bars
- Lunch on the Run or Snack boxes
- Sunscreen (non-aerosol), cortisone cream
- Peanut Butter and Jelly

Opportunity for Service: Church of Another Chance

Carol and Janet have been providing meals for the Church of Another Chance every third Tuesday for the past year and a half. As the time has progressed, we have developed a wonderful relationship with the congregation. We would like to expand our team so others can be part of this worthwhile and meaningful mission, and we would love for YOU to join us. We make a meal for about 20 (we use the crockpot a lot), which entails a main dish, a salad, and a dessert. Once ingredients are bought, to make and deliver the dinner is a few hours on the third Tuesday of each month. Please consider joining us and see the smiles begin.



07/7 Tereza Vardanyan
 07/12 Nicole Knight
 07/14 Michael Smith
 07/17 Libby Tuttle
 07/17 Patty Finn
 07/31 Nancy Leighley

Anniversaries



07/06 Norman and Joyce Larson
 07/09 Patrick and Laura Curran
 07/17 Jeff and Martha Johnson
 07/18 Ann and Jeff Koniszewski
 07/19 Alison Thatcher and Matt Forgues

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.
 All we do is sell \$100 gift cards to our
 church members and friends
 and the church will earn \$5 on each card sold!
 It's EASY!
 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!

The Possibility

EXAMPLE...
 If you spend \$200 each week at Hannaford,
 the church can earn \$5 on each \$100
 card you buy from us.
 That's \$520 per year for the church!
 Now multiply that by 10 families in our church,
 that's \$5200 a year!
 Imagine what we can raise with more of us participating!

Did you know... You can return
 your empty Hannaford cards back to church
 to be reloaded and resold? Help us save on
 shipping by returning your used cards to the
 box in Gilpatric Hall.

Opportunities In Our Community

Center Harbor Summer Concerts

Below is the schedule for Center Harbor's Summer Concert Series. All concerts are on Fridays. Concerts are held in the gazebo across from Town Hall.

Center Harbor Town Band, 7 pm on July 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and August 1st and 8th
 (rain date is following Saturday)

Guest Concerts - 6 pm

August 15th - Carter Mountain Brass Band
 August 22nd - Jilly & The Jesters
 August 29th - NOLIMITZ

Belknap Mill Arts in the Park at 6 PM

July 3rd (Thursday) North River Music

August 1st (Friday) Katie Dobbins

September 5th (Friday) SOCK HOP with
 Rockin' Daddios

Woolfboro Community Bandstand Saturday Concerts—7 pm at Cate Park

July 5th—Love From Liverpool
 July 12th—Eric Grant Band
 July 19th—Compaq Big Band
 July 26th—Windham Community Band

Solar Gazing Sundays at Castle in the Clouds

Disobey your mother and look at the sun... through a hydrogen-alpha telescope! Each Sunday, members of the NH Astronomical Society set up their telescopes in the field by Shannon Pond. Drop by and speak with the astronomers, learn about the sun, and try out their telescopes anytime between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Solar Gazing requires clear skies. In the event that it is raining or overcast, there will be an opportunity to chat with the astronomers in the Winnepesaukee Room on the second floor of the Carriage House instead.

This is a free program and registration is encouraged but not required.

Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

July, 2025

Mission of the Month: Strengthen the Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Boldface = Church-sponsored events | | 1 4:30 PM Deacons Mtg., Zoom 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | 2 5 pm Missions Mtg., Zoom | 3 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social, Ollies in Center Harbor CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 1-4 PM | 4 8:00 pm AA, Open Meeting | 5 |
| | 6 9:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Tre Voce Concert | 7 | 8 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen | 9 | 10 5:30 pm Humble Grunt Work, Gilpatric 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social, Town Docks in Meredith | 11 8:00 pm AA Open Meeting |
| 12 8 am—2 pm Flea Market & Craft Fair | | 13 9:00 am Worship | 14 | 15 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen 7 pm Cabinet Mtg., Zoom | 16 | 17 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social, Happy Cow in Laconia |
| 18 9:00 am Worship | 19 | 20 9:00 am Worship | 21 | 22 1:30 pm Books & Bites, Parlor 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen | 23 | 24 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social, Liliuokalanis in Puagus Bay (Weirs) |
| 25 9:00 am Worship | 26 | 27 9:00 am Worship | 28 | 29 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen | 30 | 31 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social, Social Club in Lakeport |

New Time!

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 229
Center Harbor NH 03226-0229

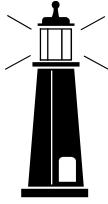
www.CHCCucc.org

CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org



THE
CENTER HARBOR
LIGHT

July 2025



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.

All are Welcome

Fireworks

by Edith Sitwell (1887 –1964)

Pink faces—(worlds or flowers or seas or stars),
You all alike are patterned with hot bars

Of coloured light; and falling where I stand,
The sharp and rainbow splinters from the band

Seem fireworks, splinters of the Infinite—
(Glitter of leaves the echoes). And the night

Will weld this dust of bright Infinity
To forms that we may touch and call and see:—

Pink pyramids of faces: tulip-trees
Spilling night perfumes on the terraces.

The music, blond airs waving like a sea
Draws in its vortex of immensity

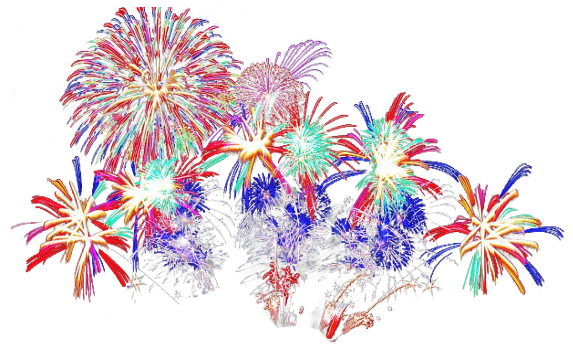
The new-awakened flower-strange hair and eyes
Of crowds beneath the floating summer skies.

And, 'gainst the silk pavilions of the sea
I watch the people move incessantly

Vibrating, petals blown from flower-hued stars
Beneath the music-fireworks' waving bars;

So all seems indivisible, at one:
The flow of hair, the flowers, the seas that run,—

A coloured floating music of the night
Through the pavilions of the Infinite.



This poem is in the public domain. Published in Poem-a-Day on July 23, 2022, by the Academy of American Poets.