

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

Special Offering this Month: Backpacks

Pastor's Message

Beloveds, May has arrived! Actually, I am writing this on an April morning after the nighttime temperatures dipped into the 20's. But that means I am looking forward to a month with some warmer days all the more intensely! Even now, the hyacinths are sharing their cheery pastel colors, and the crocuses have already come and gone. May will bring even more of a bustle: birds building nests, more flowers bursting with color, and, yes, humans swatting away black flies.

There will be quite a springtime bustle here at Center Harbor Congregational Church as well. Children's Sunday will be on Mother's Day, May 10th, our next sharing circle worship on May 17th will focus on the question "What does it mean to be an Open & Affirming church?", and we will do some great community outreach by giving away hotdogs as part of the Center Harbor Memorial Day festivities. What a busy, active little church we have here!

That being said, I also hope we are finding some time to rest and refuel. We can celebrate all that we have done and also say, "Now I need a break so I can continue to serve my church sustainably in the future." There is, indeed, a time for every matter under heaven. Perhaps you are refueled by time with friends or time alone, by hiking up a mountain or reading a book. Whatever refueling looks like for you, know that God lovingly calls you to that place, just as much as they call you to be an active member of your church and your world. We are in this together so that everyone can have a season of rest while others step up for their season of active service.

Beloveds, May has arrived. Don't forget to stop and smell the flowers. To bask in the warm sunlight. To remember that we are in this together. To be still and know that God loves you for you, not for what you accomplish or produce.

With you on the journey, 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
 Summer Office Hours:
 (begin May 12th)
 Tuesday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 Thursday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM



S Pastor Alison Thatcher
 CHCCpastor@chccucc.org
t Nancy Stamnas, Music Director
a Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary
 CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org
f Laura Curran, Preschool
 Director
 603-455-1067
f All Members: Ministers

**Center Harbor
Congregational
Church will**



During the weekend of April 11th and 12th, CHCC members and friends met with Rev. Paul Nickerson. Paul is not a stranger in our midst; a number of years ago, he led a group here to encourage us to reach out to the community to enliven our impact in Center Harbor and the surrounding communities.

A smaller group of members has met to brainstorm lots of ideas for activities and events inside and around our church. We thought R.I.S.E. would make a grand logo, standing for: Reach out, Inform, Serve and Enjoy.



Stay tuned during the next couple of weeks and through the summer. There will be a number of events to join...of course, weekly ice cream gatherings are on the list. How about a CHCC T-shirt to show our pride when out in public events (some of you already HAVE one hiding in your closet somewhere). The Center Harbor Fire Fighters Association has asked the church to help with a breakfast during the town's Fourth of July festivities, and CH Recreation Department will need our assistance for race registration. There's a possibility of getting more involved in the CH summer concert series. How about a Movie Night and/or a Game Night?

The R.I.S.E. group invites your prayers and active participation in the various activities as together we endeavor to Love God, Build Relationships, Serve Others, and Make a Difference.

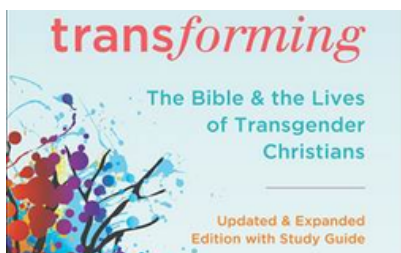
Holly Fair 2026

In April the Holly Fair crafters met to work on ornaments. They started a variety of ornaments made from wine corks and clothes pins. This is an ongoing project whose results will be sure to delight our customers!



- May 15 Card Making with Margaret Cooper and Patty Finn
- June 26 Window Shutter Snowmen (or Santas or Elves)
- August 7 Jewelry Making with Patty McQuone

This Month's Events



Book Study
Tuesdays, 9:30 AM by Zoom
May 5, 12, 19, and 26
Join us for a discussion of Austen Hartke's *Transforming*.
Book available on Amazon or by special order at your local bookstore



Thursday Bible Study
With Pastor Alison
May 7, 14, 21, 28
9 AM by Zoom
Check weekly e-mail for Zoom link!



Books & Bites
Come share what you've been reading!
May 19th at 1:30 PM in parlor
Contact: Jill Morton
(ladymort17@gmail.com or Diane Crawford onies4@gmail.com)

Sunday School Lessons

The youth of Center Harbor will have a busy month of May. On May 3rd, they will teach the congregation the hand movements to “Come to the Table” in preparation for communion. It is a fun and spirited song. It will be wonderful to have the whole church involved.

Youth Sunday will be May 10th. The children will be greeters, ushers, and of course, the liturgist. The children will present “The Prodigal Son,” which they have been working on for the last few weeks. After the skit is presented, they will have a short sharing circle with the congregation to talk about the story and its meaning.

Sunday School ends for the year on May 17th. We have two children who will receive Bibles at that time. We will recognize our wonderful teachers for their dedication to the children of CHCC. We, also, will celebrate our youth who continue to grow and blossom in their faith and surprise us in so many ways.

Join us for Sunday School May 3rd, 10th, and 17th this month!

American Red Cross



Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive Geneva Point Center

Conference Room
108 Geneva Point Rd
Moultonborough, NH 03254

**Monday, May 4, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: GenevaPointCenterNH to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Come to give blood May 1-17 and get a \$20 eGift Card, thanks to Amazon! See: rclblood.org/Amazon



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!

May Mission of the Month: New Destination for Back Packs

The Homeless Coalition is a service of the Community Action Program of Belknap and Merrimack Counties.

Street Outreach Team provides support and case management services to people experiencing homelessness or those who are at risk of becoming homeless. They engage with unsheltered individuals and families through partnerships with local service providers, 211 NH, and regular unsheltered encampment outreach. They provide access to shelter and housing search information, food, and safety equipment such as tents, blankets, and basic survival items. For more information, check out wwwcapbm.org.



There are many people (including many senior citizens) living in the streets. There is an urgent need for backpacks filled with personal hygiene items and basic survival items, such as: soap, brush and comb, toothpaste and toothbrush, shampoo, water bottles, laundry soap, bug spray, bungee cords, and trash bags.

News from the Board of Missions

The Mission Board is asking our CHCC family to continue our “backpack” ministry to these different recipients. It is estimated that each backpack (with suitable contents) will cost \$25-\$30. Please consider sponsoring a portion or a whole pack.



CENTER HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN MAY 26th IS OUR TURN TO SERVE



Church members have the opportunity once a quarter to serve at our Soup Kitchen. On Tuesday, May 26th, we call for some volunteers to prepare the meal, pack it up and serve it to the community members who come to the church to pick up their yummy meals. The menu will be planned soon. We will need some willing hands to come and have some fun together in the kitchen. Kitchen help will be needed about 3PM; packing/ serving crew is needed at 4:30PM. See Carol Asher to volunteer.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - MAY 25th

For a number of years, CHCC has participated in the Center Harbor Memorial Day festivities. We have set up a tent in the church’s front yard and given away hot dogs and water. In return, we have asked for donations to support Camp Resilience. This organization, based in Gilford, offers healing retreats and other services to Veterans and First Responders.

This project is a lot of work, but with many cooperating hands, it’s fun and all for a good cause. Look for volunteer sign-ups soon! See you at the parade!!



Missions Collections as of April 29, 2026

Mission Name	Total Collected
Backpack Mission	\$30.00
Christmas Fund	\$190.00
Community Caregivers	\$140.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$280.00
Horton Center	\$70.00
Hunger	\$290.00
Ministry of Space	\$20.00
Neighbors in Need	\$60.00
New Beginnings	\$437.00
OCWM	\$620.00
OGHS	\$725.00
Strengthen the Church	\$20.00
Total:	\$2,882.00

Registration Open for July Craft Fair

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

Registration forms available on our website or in the office



Property Update

At the end of March, we got ready for bear season by moving the Casella bin to the garage. We completed the Stove Hood inspection and Fire Department inspection, with no problems and our Occupancy permit has been renewed. The annual furnace service was completed by Stafford with no problems. The outside cleanup was cancelled because it was too cold and windy. Since then, I blew out grass around church and in the summer worship area and removed the debris. I raked out plowing damage. The signs knocked down by the plows have been replaced. You might notice that some sand remains in the parking lots along the edges because there were still some snow piles melting when Cook Country Property Management (CCPM) came through the first time. I confirmed that it will be taken care of. The garage door has settled back into alignment.

Mango Security has completed the installation of the security cameras. I coordinated a meeting with Mango to set up accounts and access to the security cameras from phone via app or from computer via website. Future issues or changes to users should be managed by calling Mango. Access and Training was provided for Alison, Louisa, and Dean. I notified Steve Dwyer, who has spearheaded the security grant process, that this is complete. I also trimmed trees that partially obscured camera views. As part of this project, we were able to replace Fidium provided internet routers with the router associated with the security cameras, allowing us to save about \$10 per month off our Fidium bill.

I coordinated with Janet about property events being handed off as of June. In the April Cabinet meeting, it was decided to engage CCPM to handle mowing around the church this summer. We got a price with a significant discount because we are a church. In early May I will be moving/closing the sand buckets and putting snow shovels away and putting out hoses for watering, and other warmer weather prep.

Jeff Koniszewski

Happy Birthday

- 5/8 Pam Hulkow
- 5/8 Alison Thatcher
- 5/18 Louisa Cartier
- 5/22 Jeff Koniszewski

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

Meredith Parks and Recreation Department

Walking Group

Monday-Friday 8:00am - 8:45am*

Looking for a fun, safe, and social way to stay active? Come walk with friends in the comfort of the gymnasium—rain or shine!

Benefits of Walking Together:

- Boost your energy and mood
- Improve balance and heart health
- Enjoy a supportive, social community
- Walk at your own pace

No cost - just bring comfortable shoes and your smile!

*Please note time and availability is subject to change throughout the year. MPRD reserves the right to cancel/ combine/change program logistics as needed.



Love the Earth Day
 Saturday, May 9
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Rain or shine
 Congregational Church of
 Laconia



May 2026 Grief Support Offerings

Need an Extra Set of Hands for Odd Jobs?
 Call Mr. Do It!

Hello my name is Kody St. Clair (aka MR. DO IT)
 I am a helping hands assistant living in Center Harbor and available to support a person or business on many levels. I have a valid New Hampshire driver's license, and I am very reliable.

Do you need help with...senior citizen support, such as moving heavy items and shopping; basic spring/fall yard cleanup, garden preparation, and mowing; small trash removal for Center Harbor and Meredith areas or seasonal cottage rental trash pickup; moving; chicken sitting/feeding? Mr. Do It...CAN do it!

I'm available Thurs. through Mon. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. If interested, please email or call/text.

kodystclair30@gmail.com or (650) 400-9318

Specifics: \$25 per hour, 2-hour minimum, Additional \$25 for travel time/gas for any distance over 15 miles from Center Harbor

**Please note that I suffer from Dyslexia. When leaving a message, please speak slowly and clearly, spelling out any address or specifics to your location and job details. Visual landmarks near you are very helpful to me.



Film Screening & Discussion

Monday May 4th 6:30-8:00pm
Center Harbor (also available online)

Join us for *Speaking Grief*, a beautiful documentary with people of all ages and walks of life – children, siblings, spouses, parents – exploring what grief is like for them. Followed by discussion and sharing. Come on your own or bring a friend, family member or neighbor.



Walking with Grief

Wednesdays May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th 4:30-6:00pm
various short trails near Center Harbor

Get out in nature, connect with others, and put one foot in front of the other. Join us for short treks to peaceful local places with others who are walking with grief. Distances are approximately 1-3 miles and we will gladly adjust to the needs of our group. Join us once or for all four.



The Art of Grief

Monday, May 11th 4:30-6:00pm
Center Harbor

Art may help us touch landscapes of our hearts that words may not reach. The process can be surprising, unexpected, or even playful. Bring your own stone or special objects to paint or use our supplies. No prior experience necessary, just a spirit of experimentation!

To register or for more information, please contact:

Dan Kusch 603-707-9655 x108

dkusch@qualitycarehh.com

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	2
3 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4	5 -9:30 AM Book Study, by Zoom -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	6 -5 PM Missions Meeting, by Zoom	7 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	8 -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	9
10 -10 AM Worship Youth Sunday	11	12 -9:30 AM Book Study, by Zoom -4:30 PM Deacons Meeting, by Zoom -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	13	14 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	15 -10 AM Holly Fair Crafting -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	16
17 -10 AM Worship Last Sunday School -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	18	19 -9:30 AM Book Study, by Zoom- 1:30 PM Books and Bites, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -7 PM Cabinet Mtg, Parlor	20	21 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	22 -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	23
24 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsall	25 Memorial Day Parade	26 -9:30 AM Book Study, by Zoom -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen - CHCC Serves	27	28 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	29 -8 PM AA (opening meeting)	30
31 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsall						

The Center
Harbor Light
May 2026



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, respect.

All Are Welcome!

The Spring Has Many Silences
by Laura Riding Jackson (1901-1991)

The spring has many sounds:
Roller skates grind the pavement to noisy dust.
Birds chop the still air into small melodies.
The wind forgets to be the weather for a time
And whispers old advice for summer.
The sea stretches itself
And gently creaks and cracks its bones....

The spring has many silences:
Buds are mysteriously unbound
With a discreet significance,
And buds say nothing.

There are things that even the wind will not betray.
Earth puts her finger to her lips
And muffles there her quiet, quick activity....

Do not wonder at me
That I am hushed
This April night beside you.

The spring has many silences.



Spring, Georgia O'Keefe (1923-24). Oil on Canvas
Bequest of Paul and Gabriella Rosenblum, Art Institute of
Chicago. This image is in the public domain.

This poem is in the public domain. Published in Poem-a-Day on March 27, 2022, by the
Academy of American Poets.