

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

Special Offering this Month: New Beginnings

An Easter People

“We are an Easter People.” At least that’s what Pope John Paul II proclaimed in 1986. (And I’m going to go ahead and say that’s true of all Christians, not just Catholics.) What does that mean though? That we should never lament? That we should always be happy? Actually, John Paul II proclaimed that statement in the raw, bare, not-yet-sparkly-with-snow month of November. And he said, “We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain.” I don’t know about you, but I find that comforting. He didn’t say there was no reason to lament or rage. To be an Easter People affirms that our trying experiences are real, not to pretend to be blind to them. It’s to prepare for authentic healing, not cover up and hide away. John Paul II said further, “We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy.” Easter joy does not come from consumerism or individual comfort. It comes from living fully in a world of woe and still believing in, working towards, liberating peace and justice for all.

Every week during worship at CHCC we share concerns for loved ones and for the world, AND we celebrate our joys, both personal and communal. Somehow, as a community, we hold both, we affirm both. Our joys do not cancel out our concerns, neither do our concerns overshadow our joys. And community is the key in holding such tricky ambiguity. There is no such thing as “an Easter person.” But I see an Easter People when our deacons lovingly prepare communion in a world that would rather worship wealth than a dead and risen Christ; when our choir sings of God’s love in a world that stokes hate; when our hall is used by AA and the soup kitchen and fellowship in a world that glorifies individualism. If you’re mostly full of lament or outrage right now, it’s not that you’re doing Easter wrong. But my hope is that you can turn to your neighbor and share a simple (not shallow!) joy. That our shared sorrows connect us to each other and our shared joys help hold each other up. That we remember that even if we’re not feeling particularly Eastery, we are part of an Easter People. And there is hope in that.

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



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

Another Way

The theme for the NH Conference this year has been to find “another way”. In fact, this year’s Prepare to Serve theme was “Nurturing Your Relationship with God in Another Way”. So often Jesus’s ministry encouraged those around him to find another way. He modeled how to live humbly while explaining that there is always another way to what is normal to the world.

During the weekend of April 11 and 12, Paul Nickerson, of Nickerson Coaching, will be visiting CHCC. On Saturday April 11th, he will conduct a workshop from 10 AM-3 PM in Fellowship Hall to explore what our hopes and dreams are, what is the faith community culture today, and how can we strengthen our own church community and reach out into the larger community. Through

your ideas and suggestions, Paul will make an action plan to be implemented over the next year to help CHCC find another way to be vital and alive in today’s culture. We will also have a pot

Church Life

luck lunch that day. On Sunday April 12th, Paul will preach and join us for fellowship to chat with members who may want to learn more about the coaching process.

CHCC is your church. If you would like to attend the workshop on the 11th, please RSVP to Louisa, and bring your ideas, thoughts, dreams, and suggestions of what you see for the future of CHCC and how we can be vital and alive in our surrounding community. Let’s find another way together.



Holly Fair 2026

Holly fair crew has been hard at work repurposing pages of Christmas carols into ornaments and decorating small Christmas trees.

Join us April 10th at 10 AM in Gilpatric Hall for more Holly Fair Crafting!



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!

This Month’s Events



Lenten Book Study

Tuesdays, 10 AM in Parlor

Last session is 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

April 9, 16, 23, 30

9 AM by Zoom

Check weekly e-mail for Zoom link!

No Bible Study on Maundy Thursday



Books & Bites

Come share what you’ve been reading!

April 21st in parlor

Contact: Jill Morton

(ladymort17@gmail.com or Diane

Crawford onie54@gmail.com)

Sunday School Lessons

In March, Sunday school students created wells and salt art all inspired by scripture readings. Sunday school students will share a song at the 10 AM Easter service. All the students and teachers are working hard to plan this year's youth Sunday, which will take place May 10th.

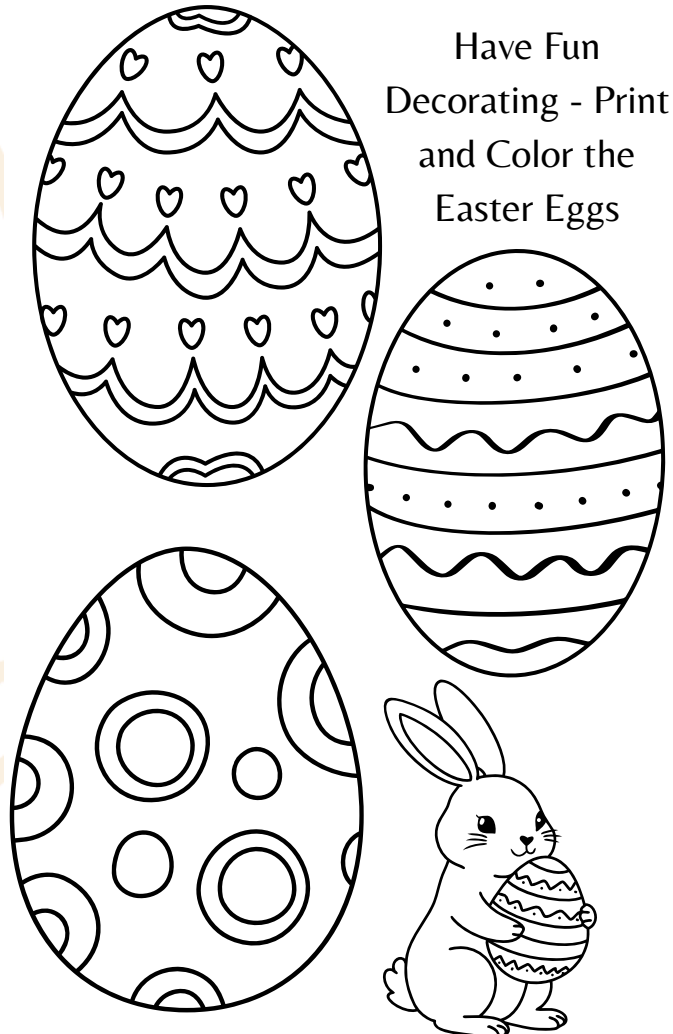
Board of Christian Education will once again offer our Sunday school students camperships to attend Horton Center. Families should register for camp then submit the campership request form to the church office.

Join us for Sunday School April 12th, 19th, and 26th this month!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
SOUPER SATURDAY
 April 11th, 12-3pm
 TAD'S PLACE
 149 EAST SIDE DR CONCORD, NH




Have Fun Decorating - Print and Color the Easter Eggs



Nothing warms the body and soul like some good soup with some great company!

On Saturday, April 11th Horton Center friends, families, campers, alumni, volunteers, and more are welcome to join us for a soup luncheon at Havenwood Heritage Height's Tad's Place. Together we will share in a bit of the camp spirit as we enjoy delicious homemade soups, breads, and desserts provided by NH UCC churches. This event is FREE for everyone!

RSVP at the link below to receive your tickets which you'll turn in upon arrival to be entered into our raffle!

Questions? Email Tivvi: TPare@nhucc.org

RSVP:

tinyurl.com/soupersaturday26



Getting Ready for Being Outside

As I write this, we have completed the first inspections we are required to do in March. Cintas has inspected the Fire Extinguishers and Emergency and Exit lights. We updated some of the Emergency lighting last year, and we sailed through the inspection. We will have the stove hood inspected and then have the Fire Department review everything for our Occupancy Permit.

On March 6th volunteers did some spring cleaning inside. Unfortunately, the outdoor clean-up scheduled for March 28th had to be cancelled due to cold temperatures. Winter just did not want to let go!

The next big project we will be the ramp rebuild by the back door to Gilpatric Hall, date TBD. Once there is a date, we will have a sign up sheet for volunteers. Speaking of volunteers, the mowing sign up will be available soon, and we

mowing at the beginning of May. Before then, we will check that the mowers start and run OK. There will also be a general switchover of putting away snow shovels and putting out hoses. We are keeping an eye on the small garage door that won't latch because the frame warped, probably due to the weather. We are crossing fingers that it will settle back into place when everything is thawed.

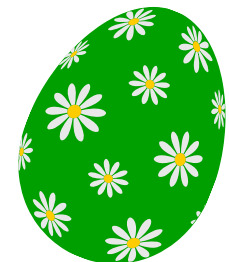
The church office has a new, lockable door, which has been paid for through the security grant we received. Thanks to Steve Dwyer for managing that effort.

-Jeff Koniszewski

Property Committee News



Thank you to all of our of our spring cleaning volunteers!



News from the Board of Missions



Mission of the Month:



New Beginnings

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. Based in Laconia, New Beginnings serves all of Belknap County.

Your contribution supports these many services (all of which are free and confidential):

- 24-Hour Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Lines
- 24-Hour Crisis Line
- Court Advocacy
- Emergency Assistance

- Systems Advocacy
- 1 to 1 Peer Support
- Various Support Groups
- Educational & Outreach Programs

We will once again have a representative from New Beginnings join us during worship on April 19th.

Especially in this Easter season, we are aware that Mary Magdalene found a brand-new beginning in Jesus Christ. For all the present-day Mary Magdalenes, please support this important service (with the hope that we can educate ourselves to completely eliminate the need for this type of program in our community and world).

Missions Collections as of March 25, 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 | \$50.00 |
| OCWM | \$495.00 |
| OGHS | \$295.00 |
| Strengthen the Church | \$20.00 |
| Total: | \$1,940.00 |

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



2nd Annual Celtic Music Concert

On Saturday, March 14th, Tre Voci held their second annual Celtic music concert at Center Harbor Congregational church. A crowd of nearly 30 people enjoyed classic Celtic music played on harp, piano, flute, and clarinet; the audience even joined in on drums and spoons for a traditional Irish session.



Happy Birthday

- 4/03 Janet Nunamacher
- 4/04 Lee Woodworth
- 4/07 Paula Young
- 4/10 Laura Curran
- 4/17 Thais St. Clair
- 4/23 Laurie Burke
- 4/28 Dave Brown
- 4/29 Joe Crawford

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 4/13 Nancy and Chris Stamnas
- 4/27 Joe and Diane Crawford



If Sunday worship is cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on WMUR and on our Facebook page. During the work week, the office follows the InterLakes School District for weather delays and closures, also posted on WMUR and on our Facebook page.

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

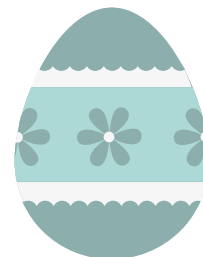
Opportunities in Our Community

Area Easter Egg Hunts



Center Harbor
Saturday April 4th 9 AM
Town Hall

Meredith
Saturday, April 4th 10 AM
Community Center



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.

**Golden View Free Lunch & Learn:
Education & Support Tips for Caregivers
with Franklin VNA
Thursday, April 16, 2026 , 12-1:00pm**

Golden View Health Care Center
19 NH Route 104
Meredith, NH
603-279-8111

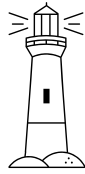
Woodland Community Room - Retreat Building

Registration is required by filling out the form at <https://goldenview.org/events-and-education/lunch-learn>, or by calling Becky at 603-677-4194.

Golden View's Lunch and Learn programs are free and open to the public. Lunch is provided for all registered attendees.

April

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>Church Office Hours: Tuesday 7:30 AM to 12 PM Wednesday 7:30 AM to 3 PM Pastor's Regular Hours: Tuesday 9 AM to 1 PM Thursday 10 AM to 1 PM</p> | | | 1 -5 PM Missions Meeting, by Zoom | 2 -7 PM Maundy Thursday Service | 3 -8 PM AA (opening meeting) | 4 |
| 5 -7 AM Easter Sunrise - Beach -10 AM Worship | 6 | 7 -10 AM Lenten Book Group, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen | 8 | 9 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom | 10 -10 AM Holly Fair Crafting, Gilpatric -8 PM AA (opening meeting) | 11 Paul Nickerson Workshop 10 AM - 3 PM |
| 12 -10 AM Worship | 13 | 14 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -4:30 PM Deacons Meeting, by Zoom | 15 | 16 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom | 17 -8 PM AA (opening meeting) | 18 |
| 19 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 20 | 21 -1:30 PM Books and Bites, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -7 PM Cabinet Mtg, Parlor | 22 Church Office Closed | 23 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom | 24 -8 PM AA (opening meeting) | 25 |
| 26 -10 AM Worship (No Sunday School) -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 28 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen | 29 | 30 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom |  <p>This Month's Mission: New Beginnings</p> | |



An April Day

by Joseph Seamon Cotter Jr. (1895-1919)

On such a day as this I think,
On such a day as this,
When earth and sky and nature's whole
Are clad in April's bliss;
And balmy zephyrs gently waft
Upon your cheek a kiss;
Sufficient is it just to live
On such a day as this.

From *Caroling Dusk* (Harper & Brothers, 1927), edited by Countee Cullen. This poem is in the public domain.



Spring by Joseph Rubens Powell (1835/1871). Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.