

# THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 45 No. 3

Special offering this month: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

March 2023



**Center Harbor  
Congregational Church**  
*United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

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*The Rev. Cathy Turrentine*  
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*Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary*

E-mail: [chccucc@myfairpoint.net](mailto:chccucc@myfairpoint.net)

*All Members: Ministers*

**Deacon of the month:**  
Norman Larson

**Chair of Trustees:**  
Steve Dwyer

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

## Star Word Update

Reconciliation: /rekənˌsilēˈāSH(ə)n/

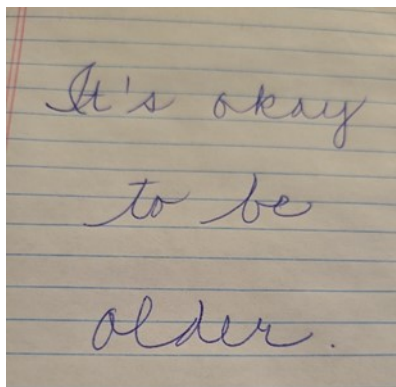
*noun* 1. The restoration of friendly relations

Reconciliation. That's the star word I drew this year. It confused me. I don't think there is anyone, anywhere, with whom I feel unreconciled. Yet reconciliation is the gift of the Holy Spirit for me this year. I chewed on this for a long time, wondering what this word, this star could be asking of me in 2023.

Then one day it just hit me. The person I need to reconcile with is ME. That is my God-given project for this year. I need to lighten up on me. I need to give myself a little grace.

That's ... um ... not the gift I expected. But it is the gift I need. It is the challenge I need.

There are lots of ways that this word could play out in my life, but one centerpiece has emerged so far, and I have posted it under a magnet on my fridge:



This year – because the Holy Spirit commands it – I am resolved to stop holding myself to standards that don't make sense anymore for someone my age. I don't have to look like I did when I was 50. I don't have to be able to run (though I bless those people my age who can). I don't have to be able to shovel snow without rest breaks. I can also let myself be a little slower than I used to be. I can do just one thing at a time, maybe for the first time in my life.

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This month I will be 73 years old. Hallelujah! What a blessing! My task this year is to embrace this stage of my life and be grateful for it. To have reasonable expectations for myself. To restore friendly relations with this person I have grown to be. That is my birthday gift from the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

Some of you have also been thinking about your own star words for 2023. I invite you to share what you have learned in future issues of this newsletter. The gifts of the Spirit are all around us!

*Pastor Cathy*

## Preschool News

February brought beautiful weather that allowed us to eat lunch outside almost every day. We are hoping for more of that in March!



During the month of March we will be learning about the maple sugaring process, the colors of the rainbow, and dental health. Our students look forward to St. Patrick's Day and a visit from Greenie, The Leprechaun! Be on the lookout for little green footprints and silly tricks.

Lent Began with Ash Wednesday Service held on February 22nd.



## Holly Fair



Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

**Holly Fair 2023 Kick-Off Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 29**  
**10:00 AM Gilpatric Hall**

Join the planning discussion to see how your time and talents can ensure a successful Holly Fair this year!

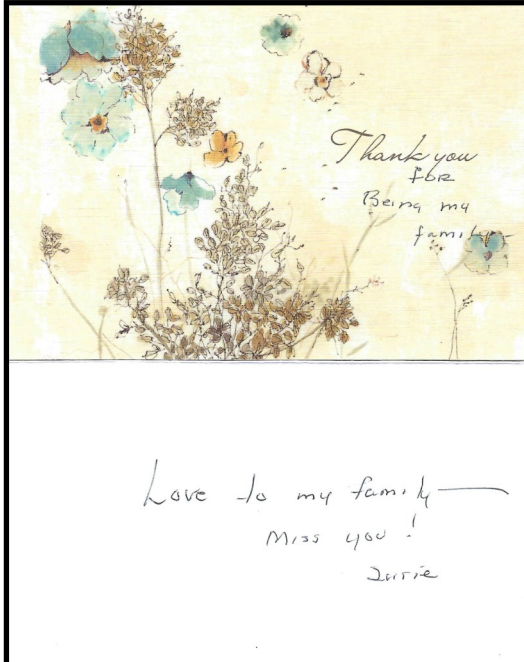
The Fair is November 18 From 8:00-2:00

A Tisket, a Tasket, Do You Have a Basket? Gift baskets are a popular Holly Fair sales item. Do you have an empty basket to donate to this year's Gift Basket project? You can leave it on the stage in Gilpatric Hall and a Holly Fair elf will take care of it. Thank you!



## Thank You...

A Note from Susie Talbot



## Seeking Tulip Sponsors

Please help us bring the joy of nature into the sanctuary at Easter by sponsoring a pot of tulips. There will be a sign up sheet in the sanctuary. Exact price will be announced when Moulton Farms reopens. Sponsored flowers can be taken home after church on Easter Sunday or left for as long as they flower.



You may also bring your own pot of flowers to place on the sanctuary, but please no strong scented flowers (e.g. lilies).

### Note about In-Kind Donations:

Thank you for your generosity in donations of materials such as paper products, soup kitchen food, and fabrics for the Gilpatric Hall curtains. We are interested in keeping track of these in-kind donations. When you make an in-kind donation please also submit a receipt to the secretary

## A BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

FOR JOHN MERRILL

A lovely time was had by all celebrating John Merrill's 90th birthday on Sunday February 19th. John was surprised to receive over 30 birthday cards in the mail from members of our congregation. But he knew something was up on the 19th when he showed up to church and saw Lee, who had previously told John that John would need to be there to do treasurer business since Lee would be away. A little trick to ensure John would be in church for a rousing rendition of Happy birthday and a delicious cake during fellowship hour.



## 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, March 14th at 1:30 pm

Interested? Contact Diane Crawford or Jill Morton at

[ladymort17@gmail.com](mailto:ladymort17@gmail.com)

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS OF THE MONTH - March

In March, **Cold Cereal - Low Sugar** is the focus for the Lakes Region Food Pantry. The food collection basket is in the parlor. As you pass through the parlor, will you consider contributing to those in need? If you wish to donate food in addition to the designated items your gift will be most gratefully received! The Board of Missions will coordinate the distribution of the items collected each month to the food pantry.

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



## News from the Board of Missions

**OUR THANKS:** Thanks to all for your help with our soup kitchen on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and thanks to all who have brought in food for our pantry and for local food pantries as well! We also filled the new bin for Isaiah 61, the homeless shelter in Laconia. The bin requests supplies for plastic ware, but anything for meal service can be helpful.

**WE NEED HELP with the April Mission of the Month: NEW BEGINNINGS.** The April MOM is the women's shelter in Laconia. If this is a cause dear to your heart and you would be willing to write up something for the newsletter and make an announcement about the offering in April, please let Fred know. Or if you would be willing to write something up but are not excited about public speaking, that's fine too! We have information that can be used for the plan.

**THANKS FROM MISSION CAUSES:** We have received thank yous from several of our mission causes: ICCI, Meredith Food Pantry, Lakes Region Food Pantry, Chaplaincy at Plymouth State, New Hampshire Food Bank, and 25:40. They will be on the mission bulletin board in Gilpatrick Hall.

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### MISSION OF THE MONTH:

This month's Mission of the Month is the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Since the closing years of World War II, The One Great Hour of Sharing has raised funds to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, and bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by natural disaster. OGHS is a partnership of Christian churches to help people around the world no matter what!

**Last year's theme was "Love Remains,"** based on 1 Corinthians 13: "Faith, Hope and Love, abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love." With a challenge of \$1000 **we raised \$1270**, which was matched from the Matthes Mission Fund with \$736 for a total of \$2006! What a difference we have made!

**We were among the top 50 churches in the country  
for per-capita giving to the OGHS!**

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**This year's theme, IT'S TIME TO SHARE,** comes from the book of Galatians:

*"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.  
At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit.  
Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all."  
Galatians 6:9-10 [The Message]*

Perhaps, we grow weary because we do not know if our efforts truly make a difference. Will our contributions feed all the hungry people of the world? How can we know if our gifts are worth it? The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering answers these questions. Our gifts help organizations confront food insecurity and hunger. In the face of the war in the Ukraine and devastating earthquakes, the OGHS partners with others to provide immediate aid to those affected by disasters of all kinds.

Along with our financial presence in the Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, we learn how the OGHS has made a difference in Honduras: OGHS gifts helped Esmerelda Robles and 58 families by providing eco-stoves. These stoves allow her to use less firewood and produce less smoke and soot. "Now we don't need as much firewood to cook and it is very helpful for our lungs that there is no smoke," Esmerelda says.

Our contributions also provide Esmerelda and her neighbors with training on planting crops, producing fertilizers, and implementing irrigation techniques. Esmerelda has also been able to participate in a "pass-chain" program where she receives a pregnant sheep. When the lamb is born, she passes that youngling along to another family for their use.

**Let's keep up the good work with another challenge of \$1000  
We know that other folks can have a better life from our abundance!**

Your Mission Board

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2023 Contributions to Missions (as of February 22nd)

Christmas Angel Fund	\$50	Deacon's Fund	\$200
I.L. Community Caregivers	\$40	25-40	\$45
New Beginnings	\$35	Neighbors in Need	\$40
OCWM	\$701.71	Hunger Action	\$125
OGHS	\$65	Blankets/Tools of Hope	\$35
Habitat for Humanity	\$40	Strengthen the Church	\$35
United Campus Ministry	\$35	Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross	\$287
Disaster Relief - Earthquake	\$1,100		

Total: \$2833.71



03/01 Margaret Cooper  
 03/03 Sally Lyon  
 03/07 Jim Swanson  
 03/10 Lauren O'Hearn  
 03/13 Donald Edwards  
 03/20 Jane Hilder  
 03/27 Ruth Costello  
 03/28 Brian Knight  
 03/28 Cathy Turrentine  
 03/30 Betsy Vazifdar

## Inclement Weather Policy

The church will use WMUR to announce weather-related closures and cancellations. If there is snow or ice, please make a safe decision about travel for yourself, and then consult WMUR (on television or online) to check whether the church will be open.

### Board and Committee Meeting Minutes Available

Minutes of all board and committee meetings are always available to all church members by contacting our secretary, Louisa Cartier.

Minutes are sent to the secretary for recording on the office computer. If you do not have access to electronic mail, you may request a printed copy. The only exception would be records of the Pastoral Relations Committee which are considered confidential.

**Mask & Social Distancing Policy:**  
 Masks Optional

## Opportunities In Our Community

### Need Help with Odd Jobs? Call Mr. Do It!

Kody St. Clair (aka Mr. Do It) lives in Center Harbor and is available to help in the home or business. He has a valid driver's license, is reliable, and is available for many jobs including small trash removal, light shopping, moving, painting, mowing, shoveling, and dog walking/sitting.

Available most days at reasonable rates.  
 kodystclair30@gmail.com  
 (650) 400-9318

### Pemi-Baker Hospice & Home Health Monthly Support Group for At-Home Caregivers

10 AM the first Wednesday of each month  
 Virtual and in-person  
 Pre-registration required

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

### Racial Unity Team Hosts 2023 Art & Poetry Challenge for New Hampshire Residents

Every New Hampshire resident is invited to submit an original poem or visual work of art inspired by this year's theme: ***"A hidden past >>> an inclusive future."*** Children and adults are encouraged to find a story that is rarely told and express how it helps us move toward a more inclusive future.

- First-, second-, and third-place cash prizes for winners in elementary, middle school, high school, and adult categories for both art and poetry
- Deadline is April 15th
- Submissions will be exhibited in NH libraries, art galleries, and Racial Unity Team website.

<https://racialunityteam.com/art-and-poetry-challenge>  
 (603) 263-6511

# Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

March, 2023

*You may request the newsletter by e-mail.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>This month's mission: OGHS</b> <b>Questions? Call the secretary during</b> <b>Office/Sanctuary Hours: Tues., Wed., 8:30 am - 1:30 pm</b> <b>Fri. 10:45 am - 12:45 pm</b> or leave a message: <b>(603) 253-7698 or 253-8668</b> <b>E-mail: chccucc@myfairpoint.net</b>			1  <b>5:00 pm Mission Board via Zoom</b>  6:30 pm A.A.	2  <b>9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom</b>	3  8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	4
5  <b>10:00 am Worship</b>  5:00 pm Al-Anon	6	7  1:00 pm Humble Grunt Work  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  <b>7 pm Cabinet Mtg. via Zoom</b>	8  6:30 pm A.A.	9  <b>9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom</b>	10  8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	11
12  <b>10:00 am Worship</b>  5:00 pm Al-Anon	13	14  <b>1:30 pm Books and Bites, parlor</b>  <b>4:00 pm Trustees Mtg., parlor</b>  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	15  6:30 pm A.A.	16  <b>9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom</b>  5:00 pm Humble Grunt Work	17  8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	18
19  <b>10:00 am Worship</b>  5:00 pm Al-Anon	20	21  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  <b>4:30 pm Deacons via Zoom</b>	22  6:30 pm A.A.	23  <b>9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom</b>	24  8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	25
26  <b>10:00 am Worship</b>  5:00 pm Al-Anon	27	28  1:00 pm Humble Grunt Work  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	29  10 am Holly Fair Kickoff Mtg., Gilpatric Hall  6:30 pm A.A.	30  <b>9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom</b>	31  8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	<b>Boldface = Church Sponsored Events</b>

**THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT**  
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 Center Harbor NH 03226-0229  
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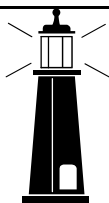
FIRST CLASS

**Save us a stamp:  
 Opt-out of our mailing list and  
 opt-in to our  
 e-mail list**

by calling the church office (603) 253-7698

THE  
 CENTER HARBOR  
 LIGHT

March 2023



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

March

By Elizabeth Drew Stoddard

Ho, wind of March, speed over sea,  
 From mountains where the snows lie deep  
 The cruel glaciers threatening creep,  
 And witness this, my jubilee!

Roar from the surf of boreal isles,  
 Roar from the hidden, jagged steeps,  
 Where the destroyer never sleeps;  
 Ring through the iceberg's Gothic piles!

Voyage through space with your wild train,  
 Harping its shrillest, searching tone,  
 Or wailing deep its ancient moan,  
 And learn how impotent your reign.

Then hover by this garden bed,  
 With all your willful power, behold,  
 Just breaking from the leafy mould,  
 My little primrose lift its head!

Originally in *Poems* (Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1895). Now in the public domain.

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