

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

Special Offering this Month: Habitat for Humanity

Seeing a World of Abundance

A few years ago, I was gifted a farm share from a local farm. I had no say in what I received every week; I just got whatever they were harvesting at the time. Sometimes I hoped for vegetables that I was used to using like tomatoes and summer squash and beans. And sometimes I received those. But I also received produce that I had never learned how to use before like kohlrabi, bok choy, and celeriac. At first these new-to-me vegetables felt like a burden. I didn't feel like I had the time and mental capacity to look up and try new recipes, especially if one of them flopped and I had to go back to the drawing board. I had all this free produce and sometimes I let it go to waste because I was more comfortable with my familiar foods.

It took an overall shift in my way of thinking to see the abundance that I had been given. It took reprioritizing my time to see the fruits that this produce I did not choose could bear. The new recipes I devoted the time and energy to learn were a boon. But so were the connections I made when I reached out to others who were more familiar with these vegetables than I was. Perhaps the greatest win to come from this experience was the appreciation for hidden abundance in new situations. I didn't just learn new recipes; I learned a new way to see life's unexpected gifts.

A few weeks ago, we learned that the trees Johnny Appleseed planted produced apples that were so sour, they were unfit to eat. His efforts would seem like a waste if he intended to grow tasty fruit for a snack, or even for baking. But he was actually planting those trees for cider. Cider was safer to drink than fresh water and cider press gatherings were areas for communal connection. I sometimes wonder if we are trying to eat the apples God is giving us to make cider with. Over and over again in our sacred text we read about God's abundance. And yet, we often act as if we are surrounded by scarcity. Could it be that God is calling us in a new direction and providing the ingredients we need to answer that call? Can we step out of our comfort zone and learn new ways of thinking about God's abundance? Beloveds, I believe that when we see scarcity in our familiar places, it's because God is providing an abundance of ingredients to try something new. It is up to us to prayerfully search for them and discern their use. Our hope comes from our trust in God's steadfast love and generous gifts. Our joy comes not simply from moving away from emptiness and despair, but toward something new and abundant.

~Pastor Alison

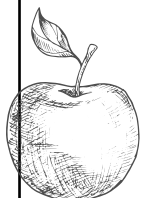


Center Harbor
Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Congregation

PO Box 229, 52 Main Street
Center Harbor, NH 03226
Tel: (603) 253-7698
Website: www.chccucc.org
Tuesday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Thursday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM



S Pastor Alison Thatcher
CHCCpastor@chccucc.org
t
a Nancy Stamnas,
Music Director
f Louisa Cartier,
Office Secretary
CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org
f All Members: Ministers





Summer Ice Cream Socials

There is still time to join in the fun of weekly ice cream socials. Join us Wednesdays throughout the summer for ice cream and fellowship at various area ice cream stands. Ice cream socials in August will be at 6:30 PM.

-August 5 - Ice Out Scoops, Moultonboro

-August 12 - Liliuokalanis, Paugus Bay

-August 19 - Papa Beans, Sandwich

-August 26 - Center Harbor Scoops



Every Voice is Important

A church survey has been developed to give members and friends of CHCC the opportunity to express their thoughts and desires for our church's future. The results of the survey will be used as input for a profile that is required as part of our search for a settled pastor.

We would appreciate you taking the time to answer these questions. Your voice counts. Surveys can be done either online or written and delivered to the church. All surveys must be submitted by August 16th.

Thank you for your participation in this endeavor.

~The Cabinet



This summer Holly Fair elves beat the June heat wave by making snowmen and Christmas ornaments! On August 14th at 10 am we will meet for jewelry making with Patty McQuone. Hope to see you there and consider bringing a friend!

CHCC Around Town on 4th of July

During the 4th of July festivities this year, CHCC members and friends got in on the action helping with race registration, teaming with the Center Harbor Fire Fighters Association to sell breakfast sandwiches, and joining with other community members at the July 5th "Pie Potluck" held at the Nichols Memorial Library, where our own Linda Verge serves as director.



Join Us Outdoors for Summer Worship

Since the start of July we have been enjoying worship outdoors in a circle! Outdoor worship will continue through Labor Day at 9 am in the meadow. Come enjoy the sunshine, lake breeze, and word of God.



Craft Fair Wrap-Up

Last month we hosted another successful Flea Market and Craft Fair. We hosted about 20 vendors, sold many strawberry shortcakes, and helped many discarded items find new homes. It was a beautiful day of fundraising and fun-raising with a great crowd wandering through the church grounds throughout the day.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in these efforts! We managed to raise \$2,845 at the event!



August Mission of the Month: Habitat for Humanity

Our church has long supported our regional Habitat for Humanity chapter.

The Pemi-Baker chapter has been active in building affordable housing in the larger Lakes Region for several decades. There have been numerous “house builds” over the years. Houses are constructed by volunteer crews and the new owner must spend lots of “sweat-equity hours” in their future home.

Plymouth also houses the “Habitat Re-Store”, a business that sells used building materials, appliances, and just about everything a person might need in building a new home or remodeling their present home.



News from the Board of Missions

The profit from the Re-Store supports the work of the Pemi-Baker home-builds.

The work and plans of our local Pemi-Valley Habitat is on-going! The possibilities are really

exciting—the opportunities for more families to have homes of their own and for Habitat to enlarge their base in our area. You may have heard some of the news about new developments with Pemi-Baker Habitat, including working with the Flying Monkey and the Warren Food Pantry and Plymouth ADA addition projects. Our local offering is always busy and forward-looking to accomplish their mission goals!

A speaker from Habitat will be with us at worship on Sunday, August 9th with an up-date. Please come to hear much more of the exciting news about our August Mission of the Month 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 over \$400! We were able to relieve the worry, anxiety and medical debt for some families across America to the tune of \$40,000!

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”!

Missions Collections as of July 28, 2026

Mission Name	Total Collected
Backpack Mission	\$748.00
Christmas Fund	\$190.00
Community Caregivers	\$140.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$280.00
Horton Center	\$590.00
Hunger	\$290.00
Ministry of Space	\$20.00
Neighbors in Need	\$60.00
New Beginnings	\$764.00
OCWM	\$955.00
OGHS	\$1,025.00
Strengthen the Church	\$150.00
Total:	\$5,212.00

Hospice Volunteer Opportunities
Quality Care Hospice in Center Harbor seeks local volunteers to accompany our neighbors and their loved ones at the end of life. Contact Dan Kusch 603-707-9655 x108.

Property Update

Thank you, Michael, for seeing that the church trash and recycled items get where they need to go! We all appreciate what you are doing to care for CHCC.



Thank You from Our Scholarship Winners:



Dear center harbor congregational church, growing up as part of the church family has been a wonderful experience, thank you for all you've done for me and thank you for giving me a college scholarship as one last gift before I move to utah,
much Love,
- ERIC

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for your generous scholarship! Me and my family are so very grateful for your generosity. So again thank you all so very much for your help in this step in my next chapter!

Sincerely,
Lauren Grinovic

Dear Center Harbor Congregational Church Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship. It will greatly help me as I enter the next chapter of my life at Saint Anselm College by reducing some of my first year costs. I sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Thank you again,
Thea Wright

250 Acts of Kindness

A while ago, you might have heard Patty Finn talk about “committing” 250 acts of kindness. At first, we thought it had something to do with the 250th birthday of our country... but IT IS SO MUCH MORE!

According to the website www.usofkindness.org this is a national initiative to establish kindness as a defining national value, leaving a legacy of hope and unity that extends beyond America’s 250th anniversary.

The United States of Kindness challenges every person, organization, and community to participate in 250 acts of kindness, one for every year of our nation’s history. These acts can be large or small, but together, they form a movement that connects people and restores hope in what we share as Americans.

This is more than a campaign. It is a call to act with intention, to notice the good around us, and to celebrate kindness in every form. Each story and every act contributes to a shared goal: making kindness the cornerstone of America’s 250th year. As Christians, we know that the Love of God will prevail as kindness overcomes the gloom around us.

The Challenge is simple.

Participate in 250 acts of kindness throughout 2026, individually or as part of some organization. Acts can be big or small: helping a neighbor, thanking a teacher, mentoring a student, or giving back to your community. Every single act counts. Share your story and inspire others to do the same. Together, we will show the world that kindness is America’s greatest strength.

250 acts of kindness... one little act each day during this year.

We don’t like to brag... but to share our acts of kindness (what we do or what we experience) will spread hope and change our whole attitude. You can help fill a bulletin board with little reports of “kindness sightings”. Come to worship to hear more.



Happy Birthday

8/03 Joyce Larson
 8/06 Robin Michaud
 8/07 William Burke
 8/09 Lory Weekes
 8/12 Joe Hulkow
 8/13 Janet Gulezian
 8/14 Roy Putnam
 8/18 Benjamin Crosby
 8/18 Hannah Crosby
 8/18 Rich Dudas
 8/24 Terry Hughes
 8/28 Jasmine Smith
 8/31 Dave Sias



8/03 Dean and Janet Gulezian
 8/09 Abby and Brendan Olden
 8/14 Meg and Ken Greenbaum
 8/16 Patty and Neal McQuone



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!

Opportunities in Our Community



Center Harbor Concerts
Every Friday, 7 pm

August 7 - Center Harbor Town Band

August 14 - Carter Mountain Brass Band

August 21 - Jimmy and the Jesters

"A THREESTRAND CORD IS NOT QUICKLY BROKEN."
 - Ecclesiastes 4:12

The NHCUCC Local Church Initiative and the Granite State Committee for Connection and Covenant will be holding a series of **LUNCH & LISTEN** events around the state to help build connections between churches and support other ways we might help one another. Our first event will be held on:

Sunday, September 27th

1 - 3pm

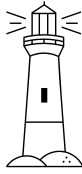
at First Congregational Church Wolfeboro UCC
115 S Main St., Wolfeboro, NH

Lunch included

Please **RSVP** with number of people and any dietary restrictions by **Sept 15th** to pastordawn@wolfeboroucc.org.
 Event open to both clergy & laity. Multiple people from each church welcome.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 -9 AM Worship	3	4 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	5 -5 PM Missions Meeting, by Zoom -6:30 PM Ice Cream Social - Ice Out Scoops	6	7 -8 PM AA (open meeting)	8
9 -9 AM Worship	10	11 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -4:30 PM Deacons Meeting, by Zoom	12 -6:30 PM Ice Cream Social - Liliuokalanis	13	14 -10 AM Holly Fair Crafting, Gilpatric -8 PM AA (open meeting)	15
16 -9 AM Worship	17	18 -1:30 PM Books and Bites, Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	19 -6:30 PM Ice Cream Social - Papa Beans	20	21 -8 PM AA (open meeting)	22
23 -9 AM Worship	24	25 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen -7 PM Cabinet Mtg, Parlor	26 -6:30 PM Ice Cream Social - Center Harbor Scoops	27	28 -8 PM AA (open meeting)	29
30 -9 AM Worship	31					



The Last Rose of Summer
by Thomas More
1779-1852

Tis the last rose of Summer,
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone;
No flower of her kindred,
No rose-bud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes
Or give sigh for sigh!

I'll not leave thee, thou lone one,
To pine on the stem;
Since the lovely are sleeping,
Go sleep thou with them.
Thus kindly I scatter
Thy leaves o'er the bed
Where thy mates of the garden
Lie scentless and dead.

So soon may *I* follow,
When friendships decay,
And from Love's shining circle
The gems drop away!
When true hearts lie withered,
And fond ones are flown,
Oh! who would inhabit
This bleak world alone?

This poem is in the public domain.

