

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 10

Special offering this month: *Neighbors in Need*

October 2025



**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:

Tues. 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Wed. 7:30 AM - 3:30 pm

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Pastor Alison Thatcher
CHCCpastor@chccucc.org

Nancy Stamnas, Music Director

Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary
CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org

Laura Curran, Preschool Director
603-455-1067

All Members: Ministers

Deacon:

Ann Koniszewski
603-253-8270

Property Team
Jeff Koniszewski
603-521-4473

One Body

This is my favorite time of year to visit the farmstand. The bounty and diversity just fill my heart with joy. Any kind of shape or color, any taste or texture can be found at the farmstand this time of year. As I walk through the aisles and imagine dinner plans, I take note of the familiar characters: Tomato and Basil for a caprese salad, Celery and Carrot for a cozy stew. I also am intrigued by the less familiar varieties: alien-looking Kohlrabi and a giant winter squash by the name of Georgia Candy Roaster. What delicious, new-to-me possibilities lie right at my fingertips?

When I step back to take in, not just the farmstand, but the whole farm and all the workers, I am bursting with awe and gratitude. Gratitude for the Earth, which provides us with sustaining nourishment and delightful tastes, and for the laborers who take on the back-breaking work, rain or shine, of tending to the plants that give all of us life. The short grace that we say in my home is, "Countless beings have died and labored that we may eat. May we be nourished that we may nourish life." It comes from the Unitarian Universalist tradition, but doesn't it sound an awful lot like our communion?

At the NHCUCC Clergy Convocation in September we reflected on the meanings and impacts of communion at great length. When we practice communion, we give thanks. We remember that God created Grain and Grape and called them good, and God called us to steward them. We give thanks and remember that in partaking of the bread and juice we are both nourished and called to nourish. Just like the intricate food web connects us all to farmers and pollinators and bakers and vintners, communion connects us all in the body of Christ. Many diverse parts, one body. Called to do good in this world in response to gratitude for this gift of life.

My dear fellow members of the body of Christ, fellow creatures of the body of the Earth, my prayer for you is this: May God's abundance bring you familiar comforts, new recipes, deepened relationships, and fresh perspectives in this season. May you be nourished, that you may continue to nourish life.

Blessed be,
Pastor Alison



Church Life

Stewardship Campaign



Our 2025 stewardship season has kicked off. Our theme this year, introduced in Pastor Alison's September Newsletter piece, is Come Together. And we will come together for a dinner in Gilpatric Hall on October 25th at 4:30 pm. A spaghetti dinner will be prepared by a chef who is a Church of Another Chance member. We are asking attendees to consider bringing a salad or dessert to share. Invitations were sent out in the mail in September; **please return your RSVP cards or e-mail/call the church office with your response by Sunday, October 5th.**

As part of our stewardship campaign this year, we will be creating a quilt. People were able to create quilt squares in September. The squares will now be pieced together by Janet Gulezian and the finished quilt will be unveiled at the Stewardship dinner.

Thank you for your participation in the quilt project, and we look forward to fellowship with everyone on October 25th.

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, October 21st at 1:30 pm

Contact Jill Morton (ladymort17@gmail.com) or

Diane Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)

Property Corner: Time and Temperature

Remember years ago, there were Time & Temperature displays in front of a lot of businesses? It was a nice reminder of this information before digital access to it was possible and universal. Now, most cars can provide this information and often link to the internet for accuracy.

Time is also a factor we need to be aware of for CHCC- specifically the time of year. Sunset is now coming earlier, and we need to make changes to manage that.

We need to reset the start time (8:30 pm in the summer) on 4 outside light timers to not leave people in the dark (and Yes, we do get calls if we don't). We do the first change in August, then late September, then in November.

In November, we also must change the actual time when Daylight Savings Time comes to an end. Besides the 4 light timers, we must also change the time on 3 programable thermostats. All this repeats in "reverse" in the Spring.

Then there is also the Liturgical calendar. The carillon needs to be reprogrammed 6 times a year to play music appropriate to the Liturgical season: when Lent begins, on Easter Day, when Eastertide is over on Pentecost back to General hymns, when Advent begins, on Christmas Day, and after Epiphany to General hymns. Also, when we go outside for worship, we change the time of the Carillon playing from 9:30 on Sunday (before regular inside service starts) to 10 (after outside service is done).

As to Temperature settings, the demands are different for each area. The sanctuary is on a Sunday only program. However, we have special events where the thermostat needs to be run manually. The Parlor use is more on demand, and a programmed schedule is less useful. Gilpatric Hall is programmed to heat up on Sunday mornings but is used by various groups at predictable and unpredictable times. Because of the different needs in our building, several thermostats now have posted directions as to how to properly use them. As we enter the heating season, we ask that people follow the directions on the thermostats and remember to turn the heat back down or to take the thermostat off hold. If you adjust a programmed thermostat by placing the program on "HOLD", when leaving the building please visually confirm that "HOLD" is no longer displayed. Thank you for your cooperation this heating season!

Notes from the September Cabinet Meeting

Actions taken at our Tuesday, 9/16 Meeting:

- Approved minutes of Cabinet meeting of August 19 with thanks to the Clerk;
- Approved the Treasurer's Report with thanks to the Treasurer;
- Received a presentation by the Finance Committee on the financial future of CHCC; Received and approved a draft of the 2026 budget for recommendation to the congregation;
- Noted a meeting of the Pastoral Relations Committee with Pastor Alison Thatcher;
- Approved a recommendation to form a Long Range Planning Committee
- Acknowledged minutes from the Deacons, Finance, Property and Christian Education committees.

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

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be October 21st at 7 PM (Zoom or in-person TBA).

Holly Fair Just Two Months Away!

Can you hear the Christmas bells calling to you? Enthusiasm is building for the annual Holly Fair on November 22, from 8-2! The bells remind us that the Holly Fair is a churchwide, all hands on deck "fun"raiser.

Our traditional and very popular gift baskets, overflowing with thoughtful items and adorned with beautiful bows, will be created on October 3rd. Our business partners are currently being approached for the Silent Auction. You are reminded to let Barb Edwards know if you have jellies, jams, pickles or other items for the Country Store. A reminder to let Cindi Pelczar know of your hand-crocheted/knitted items you plan to donate.

Artist, Colleen Finn, will be with us this year, painting custom children winter-themed illustrations and personalizing/"petalizing" adorable pet Christmas stockings created by Patty Finn. Yes, the creative gene is in the family!

Holly Fair Calendar

Tuesday, October 3

10 am in Gilpatric Hall
Gift Basket Construction

Monday, November 10

6 pm in Church Kitchen
Apple Pie-Making Event

Wednesday, November 19

10 am in Gilpatric Hall
Table and Sign Set-Up
(Designated Crew)

1:00 pm in Gilpatric Hall
Tablecloths and Swags
on Tables

Thursday, November 20

9 am in Gilpatric Hall
Display Set-Up
(snacks provided)

Friday, November 21

Any remaining Display Set-Up



News from the Board of Missions

October Mission of the Month—Neighbors in Need

Our special mission for October is **Neighbors in Need** (NIN), one of the four special offerings of the national United Church of Christ.

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Thank you for your generous support of this UCC offering here at Center Harbor Congregational Church.

Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

-Galatians 6:2

Over the last 4 months, our church earned
over \$800!

**Shop at Hannaford with grocery cards and help
earn cash for the church!**

Hannaford is funding a program for churches to earn money.
Purchase \$100 grocery shopping cards during Fellowship Hour on Sundays
and Hannaford will donate \$5 to the church for each card sold!
Rather than using your own cash or credit card in the store, purchase
grocery cards and help earn for CHCC!

Cash or check accepted!

Use the cards in any Hannaford store!

You can still earn and spend your rewards!

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!

Talk it up with family and friends! Purchase their cards on Sunday too!
EASY EARNINGS FOR OUR CHURCH, THANKS TO HANNAFORD!

2025 Contributions to Missions (as of September 30th)

Backpacks	\$360
Camp Resilience	\$212
Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross	\$447
Interlakes Community Caregivers	\$150
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,041
Horton Center	\$749
Hunger Action	\$205
Medical Debt Relief	\$19.50
Ministry of Space	\$735
Neighbors in Need	\$45
New Beginnings	\$729
OCWM	\$1,549
OGHS	\$554
Strengthen the Church	\$254
Deacon's Fund	\$2,186
Total	\$9,235.50

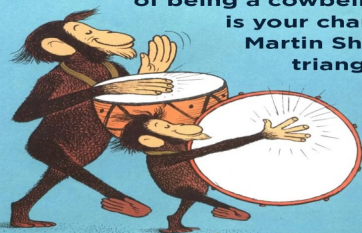
As Dr. Seuss said —

**HAND, HAND, FINGERS THUMB
DUM DITTY, DUM DITTY, DUM DUM DUM**

And Patty says —

**COME JOIN THE CIRCLE, COME JOIN THE FUN
DUM DITTY, DUM DITTY, DUM DUM DUM.**

The drum circle is coming on October 11th
at 6:15pm! Get here whenever you can, stay
as long as you can. Have you ever dreamed
of being a cowbell virtuoso? This
is your chance. Jealous of
Martin Short playing the
triangle? You can do
that too!



**Hope to see
you there!**

Sunday School



Village Preschool

Sunday School Opens with Rally Day!

Despite the soggy weather on September 7th, CHCC kicked off the Sunday school year with a fun Rally Day. The congregation played several team-based games and shared snacks. Laughter filled the hall!

We are excited to welcome back our students for another year of learning about God's love. Our lessons started on Communion Sunday where the children, using drawings of animals, expressed that all are welcome at Jesus' table. In another lesson, the older class learned about God's comforting embrace using cozy blankets as props. Our Sunday school teachers are hard at work planning engaging lessons for the youngest members of our church family!



Start of the Preschool Year

On September 8th, Ms. Laura and Ms. Elena welcomed 11 students back to preschool. This year's class has several returning students as well as some new friends. The preschoolers have been working on getting to know one another and adjusting to the classroom routine.

Thank you to Dave Brown for helping make our playground safer by installing new wood beams around the border of our playscape.



Congratulations to Laura Curran

Laura Curran, our preschool director, recently earned a Certificate of Mastery in the Lexia Letrs Program. The program, offered through the NH Department of Education, was a combination of online modules, reading assignments, practical assignments, and in-person education. This was a big time commitment for Laura, but something she thought was very important for giving the students of the Village Preschool the early literacy skills they need to be prepared for kindergarten.

Lexia Letrs provides educators with a deeper knowledge of literacy by focusing on the processes and developmental sequences of language skill acquisition. Those certified in Lexia Letrs develop strategies and learning activities to help their students engage with literacy in an effective and developmentally appropriate way. Concepts covered in the course included oral language development, phonological processing and awareness, and print awareness and knowledge.

CHCC is so grateful to Laura for devoting her time to acquiring these new skills and techniques. Ask Laura about all she has learned about the science of literacy!



Sunday School October Schedule
 October—5th, 19th, 26th
 (No Sunday School October 12th)



10/03 Natalie Smith
 10/07 John Eaton
 10/08 Joe McGrail
 10/16 Norman Larson
 10/17 Eric Larson
 10/17 Ann Koniszewski
 10/17 Susie Talbot
 10/18 Charlotte Morrow
 10/23 Abby Olden
 10/25 Ethan Larson
 10/30 Patrick Curran (father)



10/06 Louisa and Andy Cartier
 10/24 Ed and Amy O'Hearn
 10/25 Kyle Libby and Tereza Vardanyan
 10/28 Spencer and Patricia Martin

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

Annual Blessing of the Animals

SUNDAY 10/5 AT 1:00PM

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEO,
Route 25 Meredith
(across from Moulton Farm)**

Invitees: All pets who would like a blessing! Bring photos of deceased pets to be remembered as well.

Donations to **NH Humane Society** (monetary or otherwise) would be greatly appreciated. See NH Human Society's website for list of items they collect.

Kindly bring a leash or carrier to ensure safety.

Contact Peg Gavenonis at 253-7418.



Art Show

If you are near the Moultonborough library in the month of October, stop in to see Patty Finn's paintings of scenes around the area.

You will recognize Center Sandwich, Conway's Bait and Tackle, The Shaker Village, etc.

They will be in the meeting room throughout the month.

October Events at Nichols Memorial Library

Saturday, October 4th—Autumn watercolor class with Ann Xavier. 10–11 am.

Class is free—donations gladly accepted.

Saturday, October 18th—Margo Burns presents Saturday Morning Cartoons: Bugs Bunny, Bulwinkle and Big Business in the 1960s. 1-2:30 pm. Made possible by NH Humanities.

Thursdays—Chair Yoga. 10–11 am.

Class fee is by donation—give whatever you can afford.

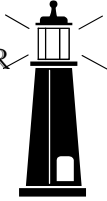
All programs are free to attend, but please pre-register as space is limited. Call the library at (603)253-6950 or email centerharborlibrary@gmail.com

Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

October 2025

This month's mission: Neighbors in Need

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Boldface = Church Sponsored Events			1 5:00 pm Mission Board via Zoom	2 9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom	3 10:00 am Holly Fair Gift Baskets 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	4
5 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Bells Rehearsal 1:00 pm Blessing of the Animals, St. Charles	6	7 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	8 4:30 pm Deacons via Zoom	9 9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 pm Humble Grunt Work, Gilpatric	10 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	11 6:30 pm Drum Circle, Gilpatric Hall
12 10:00 am Worship (No Sunday School) 11:00 am Bells Rehearsal	13	14 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	15	16 9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom	17 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	18
19 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Bells Rehearsal	20	21 1:30 pm Books & Bites, Parlor 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Cabinet Meeting	22	23 9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom	24 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	25 4:30 pm Stewardship Dinner
26 10:00 am Worship 	27	28 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	29	30 9:00 am Bible Study via Zoom	31 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	



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

Sonnet 73 by William Shakespeare

That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.



White Beeches in Fall by Christian Rohlfs, 1910, Oil on Canvas, Collection of Arnold and Joan Saltzman, image Courtesy of National Gallery of Art, Washington