

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT

Special Offering this Month: Interlakes Community Caregivers

“Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit” ~

I Corinthians 12:4

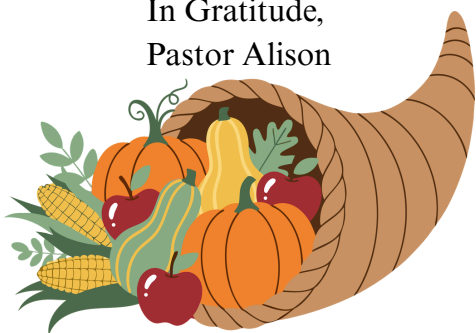
In October I preached on Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth in which he wrote about spiritual gifts. In the case of the Corinthian church, some members insisted that their gifts were more important than any others’ gifts. We certainly do experience that kind of arrogance in our time, but we also do harm when we do not value our own gifts. If sin is anything that separates us from God, I would say that being arrogant to the point of thinking we are more like God than others is a sin. And I would say that not valuing or using our God-given gifts for the common good is not valuing God. And doesn’t that get in the way of our relationship with God?

In a faith community like CHCC we have the opportunity to celebrate each other’s gifts and share our own. It should be a place where we can discover our gifts and see the impact they have on this community and, hence, the world! When we offer our gifts to CHCC – be they time, talent, or treasure – we are becoming one in the body of Christ, not just with the current membership at CHCC, but with Christians across the globe and through time. We’re a part of that when we give to CHCC! Each of our gifts matter, each has an impact, each is required for the body of Christ to be whole.

This stewardship season we are reminded that stewardship is what we do with the gifts God gives us. As we sing to God every Sunday, “All that we have is thine alone, a trust, o Lord, from thee.” God trusts us to steward the time, talents, and treasures that God gives us for the common good. What has God trusted you with to use for the common good? How could that gift have an impact on CHCC, which offers a place to worship God every Sunday, supports local organizations like New Beginnings and Church of Another Chance, and participates in the wider body of Christ through five special UCC offerings?

You have the power and opportunity to be a part of that in this stewardship season! This is your opportunity to pledge a little more of your treasures to help maintain a building that is used regularly for AA meetings, soup kitchen preparations, worship, and fellowship. This is your opportunity to offer some of your time to aid a committee that coordinates worship or Christian education or missions. This is your opportunity to add your special talent to the vibrant life and mission of CHCC. Not sure if your talent can be used for that purpose? I bet it can! Ask a church leader how your random gift can be a part of the body of Christ. This stewardship season we are all invited to ask ourselves, “How are we using our God-given gifts for the common good?”

In Gratitude,
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
Fall Office Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
12:30 - 4 PM



Staff

Pastor Alison Thatcher
CHCCpastor@chccucc.org

Nancy Stamnas, Music Director

Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary
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All Members: Ministers



Holly Fair 2026

Holly Fair is November 21st! We are in the final stretch. In October, the Holly Fair Elves made 20+ gift baskets. In November there are opportunities to help make Apple Pies (November 9th) and put together chocolate gift baskets (November 13th). There are also plenty of chances to help in the week leading up to the fair (see calendar below) and on the day of the fair (contact Ann K).

Thank you to everyone who has helped in the Holly Fair efforts this year!



Homecoming Dinner

At October 24th's Homecoming Dinner, folks were asked "How do 'ewe' use the gifts God has given you?"



Stewardship Sunday

In its truest sense, stewardship means to care for God's creation with our time, our talents, and our treasures which are all gifts from God. Members and friends of CHCC give of their time all year long whether it is through mission work, volunteering in or out of church, or helping a neighbor in need. Your talents are abundant while serving home cooked meals as outreach, working to provide a venue to our community either during our Craft Fair in the summer or our Holly Fair in November, and working around our church property to maintain its presence in the community. The work of the church depends on all of us using the gifts that we are given whether it is leaders, teachers, visionaries/prophets, workers, comforters, welcomers, etc. Stewardship Sunday is on November 15th. Your pledge card asks you to prayerfully consider the many ways you will use your God given gifts in the coming year, including what each of us will pledge. Without our treasures, the church will be unable to increase our impact in the community we serve. Your pledge is an intention to give to the church, not legally binding. Please prayerfully consider your contribution for the coming year and perhaps you may consider giving a little more. Your treasures are valuable and appreciated.

Mark Your Calendars for November Holly Fair Work Dates

Friday, November 13 10:00 AM
Chocolate Gift Baskets, Gilpatric

Monday, November 9 6:00 PM
Church Kitchen - Apple Pie-Making

Wednesday, November 18
- 10 AM Gilpatric Hall - Table and Sign Set-Up (Designated Crew)
- 1 PM in Gilpatric Hall - Tablecloths and Swags on Tables

Thursday, November 19 9:00 AM
Gilpatric Hall - Display Set-Up

Friday, November 20 Any
remaining Display Set-Up

Help Our Neighbors Stay Warm this Winter

During the month of November our church will be holding a Coat Drive. There is a huge need in our area for warm clothing as the temperatures begin to drop. Coats (children, youth, and adult), hats, mittens, and boots will be collected all month. There will be a box in the parlor as well as on the stage for items you may have to donate. At the beginning of December, all accumulated clothing will be distributed to local schools, Isaiah 61, the Homeless Coalition, and New Beginnings. Let's give the gift of warmth to someone this holiday season.

A Summer Surprise

Last summer, on the same day the new rainbow flag arrived, "Dawn" gifted us with a new progress flag. Her message was "Please keep preaching 'Love thy neighbor.' I appreciate seeing your flag. It's time to shine brighter. From Dawn Not a member."

The flag is proudly displayed in Pastor Alison's office while the congregation continues to discern what it means to be Open and Affirming and how to authentically live out our pledge.

Could it be that the 'coincidence' of the two flags arriving on the same day may be the work of the Holy Spirit amongst us -----a 'God-incidence'?

Halloween Fun in Our Community

It was CHCC's first appearance at the Interlakes PTO Trunk or Treat event. It was great fun to see all the children dressed in their Halloween finery. Many thanks to the Browns for volunteering their trunk, to those who welcomed all the ghouls and goblins on the chilly fun night, and to all who donated candy for the event. Happy Halloween!!!



In Memory: Palmer Smith

Palmer Barrett Smith passed away on Oct. 16, 2026, at the Taylor Community in Laconia.

He lived a wonderful 100 years filled with adventure, service, time with family and plenty of outdoor time.

Palmer was a WWII veteran in the U.S. Navy. Post war, he attended Yale University, graduating with a master's degree in electrical engineering in 1950. He was an engineer for Barnes Engineering and worked on components used in space navigation and the Apollo space program.

While attending Yale, Palmer's sister introduced him to a friend, who became the love of his life. Palmer married Dorrie (née Luther) in 1954, and they lived in Darien, CT, for 43 years where his daughters, Tona and Kim, were raised.

After retirement, they spent many years traveling the country visiting family and friends and exploring the National Parks. In 1997, Palmer and Dorrie moved to Center Harbor.

Palmer first visited Bear Island in 1931 and fell in love with the area. Dorrie and Palmer bought property there in 1957 and built a small cabin.

Palmer was always involved with the community. He was an active member of both the Darien and Center Harbor Congregational Churches, the Center Harbor Historical Society, and the Bear Island Conservation Association.

Palmer was celebrated at his 100th birthday in September, with many friends and family.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Those wishing to honor Palmer's memory make a donation to the Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance or Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Excerpted from the *Laconia Daily Sun*

Sunday School Lessons

Over the last several weeks the elementary age children have been learning about God's creation. He divided night from day, earth from sky, and then brought plants into being where the sun and moon controlled the sky. Along came the animals, fish and birds. Finally God created humans whom He loves and cares for every day. He provides food for us to live, gives us strength each day, keep His promises, and is with us wherever we go. What an awesome and loving God!

Join us for Sunday
School
November 1st, 8th, 15th,
and 22nd this month!



This Month's Events



Thursday Bible Study

With Pastor Alison
November 5, 12, and 19
9 AM by Zoom
Check weekly e-mail for Zoom link!



Books & Bites

Come share what you've been reading!
December 1st at 1 PM in parlor
Contact: Jill Morton
(ladymort17@gmail.com) or Diane
Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)



**Hanging of Greens - November
29th after Worship**

November Mission of the Month: Interlakes Community Caregivers

Twenty-eight years ago, a small group of concerned church members right at Cetner Harbor Congregational Church realized that some people were unable to get to their doctors' appointments because they could not drive. That was the beginning of Interlakes Community Caregivers (ICC)—to provide rides to medical appointments (and other necessary activities). Since then, thousands of "neighbors" have been driven to appointments (both local and more distant), and many more needs

News from the Board of Missions



have been met that allow people in our Lakes Region to safely remain in their homes. Caregivers has grown from a small idea in our church to a vibrant and wide-spread organization serving thousands of people living in the Lakes Region. A host of volunteers make up the background of service providers, all led and coordinated by a dedicated staff.

On November 15th, we will host several representatives from ICC during worship service.

CENTER HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN: NOVEMBER 24th IS OUR TURN TO SERVE

Church members have the opportunity once a quarter to serve at our Soup Kitchen. On Tuesday, November 24th, 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... and we will need some willing hands to come, have some fun together in the kitchen. Kitchen help will be needed about 3PM, packing/ serving crew is needed at 4:30PM.

INTERLAKES CHRISTMAS FUND ANGEL GIFTS



The Christmas tree has made its very early appearance in the sanctuary... covered with little angel tags, each giving information about the age, sex, and preference for a student in need from Interlakes Schools.

Many thanks to all the CHCC "angels" who have already taken tags to do this much-appreciated Christmas shopping. All gifts are to be returned to the tree UNWRAPPED WITH THE TAG ATTACHED by Sunday, November 8th. This very early date gives volunteers the time to sort gifts and know what has been offered... and for families to know if anything else is needed (before Thanksgiving sales).

The pile of angel gifts (and the love with which they are offered) is always overwhelming!

If you happen to see mittens, hats or scarves on sale, please get them to "decorate" the tree left bare from little angel tags.

Missions Collections as of
October 27, 2026

Mission Name	Total Collected
Backpack Mission	\$748.00
Christmas Fund	\$190.00
Community Caregivers	\$140.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$675.00
Horton Center	\$590.00
Hunger	\$290.00
Medical Debt Relief	\$196.17
Ministry of Space	\$665.00
Neighbors in Need	\$115.00
New Beginnings	\$764.00
OCWM	\$2,100.00
OGHS	\$1,045.00
Strengthen the Church	\$170.00
Total:	\$7,688.17

Happy Birthday

11/13 Dean Gulezian

11/16 Beatrice Cartier

11/21 Marianne McGrail

LAY READER WORKSHOP

Refine your public Scripture reading skills
just in time for Advent and Christmas Eve!

This workshop is for budding
and experienced liturgists alike.

Facilitated by

Peter Davies
Former Pastor,
First Presbyterian Church,
Scottsburg, IN

Alison Thatcher
Transitional Pastor,
Center Harbor
Congregational Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

1:00 PM

**CENTER HARBOR
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
52 MAIN ST
CENTER HARBOR, NH**



Opportunities in Our Community

In need of new grocery bags?

This month the Center Harbor Soup Kitchen is the Meredith Hannaford's Fight Hunger Bag Program Recipient

Every Fight Hunger bag sold at
the Meredith in Hannaford will
earn the Center Harbor Soup
Kitchen \$1.



Fall/Winter Kids Consignment Sale

Public Shopping: November 6–8, 2026

Geneva Point · Moultonborough, NH

Buy and sell children's clothing, toys, books, baby gear,
winter gear, sports equipment, and more.

Learn more + register at

littlepinesmarket.com
BUY. SELL. GIVE BACK.

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Center Harbor Congregational Church

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Click the LIKED button
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see our posts in your newsfeed!



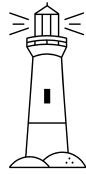
Are you a Hannaford shopper? Purchase \$100 grocery
cards with cash or check from the church each Sunday
during Fellowship Hour and Hannaford will give us
\$5 for each that you buy!

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!

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 -10 AM Worship -11 AM Workshop with Linda Hirst  Clock Change!	2	3 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	4 -5 PM Missions Meeting, by Zoom	5 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	6 -8 PM AA (open meeting)	7
8 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 -6 pm Apple Pie Making, Kitchen	10 -1:30 PM Cabinet Mtg., Parlor -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	11	12 -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom -6:30 PM Deacons Meeting, by Zoom	13 -10 AM Holly Fair Chocolate Baskets, Gilpatric -8 PM AA (open meeting)	14
15 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal -1 PM Lay Leader Workshop	16	17 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen	18 -10 AM Holly Fair Table Set- Up -1 PM Holly Fair Tablecloth Set-Up	19 -9 AM Holly Fair Display Set-up -9 AM Bible Study, by Zoom	20 -8 PM AA (open meeting)	21 8 AM - 2 PM Holly Fair
22 -10 AM Worship -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	23	24 -4:30 PM Soup Kitchen CHCC serves!	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 -8 PM AA (open meeting)	28
29 -10 AM Worship (No Sunday School) Hanging of Greens -11:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	30					



One day there is of the series By Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

One day is there of the series
Termed "Thanksgiving Day"
Celebrated part at table
Part in memory -
Neither Ancestor nor Urchin
I review the Play -
Seems it to my Hooded thinking
Reflex Holiday
Had There been no sharp subtraction
From the early Sum -
Not an acre or a Caption
Where was once a Room
Not a mention whose small Pebble
Wrinkled any Sea,
Unto such, were such Assembly,
'Twere "Thanksgiving day" -



This poem is in the public domain.