



Village Church Times

Chester Congregational Baptist Church

Catch the Spirit
December 2019

Upcoming Events

Christmas in the Village
Saturday, December 7th ~ 9:00am to 2:00pm

Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 8th ~ 7:00pm
Service will be held at
Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC in Auburn

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24th ~ 5:00pm

Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, December 25th



Please join us every Sunday for Worship at 10:00am
Communion is the 1st Sunday of every month

Lines from Linda,

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:1-2,6 NEB)

This scripture is one that is used as a foretelling of the coming of Christ. As we move through Advent, we are preparing for the coming of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace.

Look at the beginning of this particular passage. The people were in anguish or distress. Perhaps we are able to identify with them as we do feel exhausted with what is happening in the world, the country, or simply in our own lives. Our lives are overstretched and overscheduled. Our responsibilities weigh us down. It can be a time when there does not seem to be hope. We wonder if the light will ever dawn.

In this reading we are reminded that the coming of this Prince of Peace will bring light to those who are feeling they are in darkness. Advent is a time of making preparations for the birth of the Prince of Peace, It is a time of gathering together, shopping, cooking, sending cards, and decorating. We hear the Christmas music, both secular and Christian, on the radio, in the malls and other places. It is impossible to escape the season. As we gather to celebrate, hopefully we will remember more than the trappings, the celebrations, the decorations, the gifts, and the music. It is God's love and light which should shine through all that we do during this Christmas season. It is God's love which comes to us in the birth of this child.

This is a busy season for the church with Christmas in the Village, Loaf and Ladle, concerts involving members of the church, a Blue Christmas Service at Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC, and our own Christmas Eve Service. We may even become exhausted through our celebrating. However that light will dawn on December 22nd when we celebrate during worship with the baptisms of Stella Acasiere-Field, Blake Gallant, and Calvin Gallant. The baptisms of these children fill us with hope. We are able to celebrate God's love through these children. They bring light into the winter's darkness.

May we remember and embrace the light that this Wonderful Counselor bring to all our lives. May we acknowledge the gift of love God gives us through all children, especially Jesus. May we share this love with others so they may experience the light of God.

Shalom,

Pastor Linda



BOARD MEETINGS

Upcoming Board Meetings:

BORF – Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30pm

Deacons – Sunday, December 15th at 11:00am

Cabinet— Tuesday, December 10th at 10am



Lillian Arthur

JB

Kimberly Baviro, former director of The Upper Room, friend of Esther Connolly

Dan Barter

Jim Brown, friend of Pauline Hoyt

Matthew Cicero, Lynn Rockwell's nephew

Colman Family: John, Nancy (wife), Nancy (sister), Elizabeth (sister), Mike (nephew) and Steven (brother)

James Cooney, friend of Mike Elliott

Skip Corwin, Lynn Rockwell's step father

Joyce Diemer

Debbie Drew, prayers for son and family

Peggy Elliott, Mike Elliott's mother

JJ Finney

Steve Hebert

Hayden Lane

John Lighthall

Janet MacGray

Sandy McKay

Avery and Linda Millsaps, Cliff's family members

Cliff Millsaps

Shirley Pike

Brenda Price

Tre Rouse, son of Rev. Renee Rouse, who is missing. He was last seen in Allenstown on Friday, November 15th.

Elaine Scott, Paul's mother

Sally St. Clair

Phil Streeter

Elaine Storlazzi, friend of Colleen Towle

Dean Towlas

Jack and Joan Towle, Colleen Towle's brother and sister-in-law

Bill Veazey, Lynn Rockwell's father

John Ward, Dot Avery's brother

Clarence Ware

For those who are in Nursing Homes...

Janet MacGray

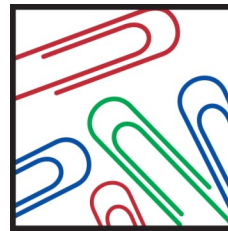
Barbara Rice

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of...

Evelyn Wise who died on October 16th

Abby Collins, Jane Collins' granddaughter (Jane is Marge Pagliuca's sister), who died on October 22nd

Rev. Dwight Meader, an ABC pastor who served many churches in NH, who died on November 21st



Office Hours

Pastor Linda will be on vacation from Wednesday, December 25th through Wednesday, January 1st, returning to the office on Thursday, January 2nd.

Frances Kenison will be out of the office from Monday, December 23rd through Wednesday, January 1st, returning on Thursday, January 2nd.



Remember to shop AmazonSmile!

Amazon.com offers an amazing income opportunity for non-profit groups and Chester Congregational Baptist Church is part of AmazonSmile. You do not need to set up a new Amazon.com account and your purchase price does not increase. Amazon is willing to share its sales commission with non-profits. All it takes is anyone who wants to make an online purchase using Amazon.com. Use the Amazon link below to start shopping:





Advent Open House
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 ~ 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Your NH UCC Conference Staff invites you to an afternoon of fellowship and refreshments at our annual Advent Open House, which will be held in the Whittemore Room of the Conference Center (140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH) on Wednesday, December 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. No reservation needed. Please join us as we celebrate the joy and hope of this sacred season. All are welcome



The Interfaith Choir Winter Concerts
Emmanuel
God With Us

Saturday December 7th at 7:00 pm
Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main Street, Hampstead

Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 pm
Orchard Christian Fellowship Church, 136 Pillsbury Rd, Londonderry

Admission is free.
A free will offering will be accepted at the concerts.
Refreshments following each concert.



New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus
2019 Holiday Concert Series: Amid the Winter's Snow

Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 pm
First Baptist Church of Nashua, 121 Manchester Street, Nashua

Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm
South Church, 292 State Street – Portsmouth NH

Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm
Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton Street, Concord

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm
Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester

To reserve “will call” concert tickets, visit our website at nhgmc.com and to to the “Tickets” page. Tickets can also always be purchased at the door of your concert.

Rockingham Choral Society – Winter Concerts

In the first concert of their sixty-third season, Rockingham Choral Society's holiday musical celebration will feature two sacred masterpieces from the Baroque period: *Messe de minuit pour Noel* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, *Magnificat* by Dietrich Buxtehude. The group will also perform *Kol Nidre* by Samuel Adler as well as shorter selections such as "The Holly and the Ivy," "Christmas Time is Here" by Lee Mendelssohn and Vince Guaraldi, and "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arranged by Andre J. Thomas. The Rockingham Choral Society is under the direction of Dr. Alex T. Fazza, Director of Choruses at the University of New Hampshire, and will be accompanied by Jeannie Goodwin of Dover, New Hampshire.

Saturday, December 7 at 7:30pm

St Christopher's Episcopal Church, 187 East Rd, Hampstead

Sunday, December 8 at 3:30pm

Christ Church, 43 Pine St, Exeter

General admission tickets for the Holiday Concert are Adults: \$12 advance/\$15.00 at the door; Seniors and Students, \$10 advance/\$12 at the door; 12 and under free. Advance tickets can be purchased directly from members and online at www.rockinghamchoral.org.



Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 8th ~ 7:00 p.m.

Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC
4 Wilson's Crossing Road, Auburn

For many, Christmas is a difficult time of year due to losses or challenges in their lives. The death of a loved one, the loss of a job or one's health, the end of a relationship – these challenges and many others can make the holidays a trying time as we seek to cope with the constant refrain of holiday cheer. By means of a brief service of prayer, scripture, song and light, we seek to acknowledge, honor and heal the pain many may be feeling at this time of year. Please join us for this time of devotion and fellowship as we anticipate the arrival of Christ's healing in our lives in this Advent season.

*A shared ministry of the Longmeadow Congregational Church and
the Chester Congregational Baptist Church*



Application Process Open for 2020 Ukama Delegation to Zimbabwe

The Ukama Partnership Mission Group of the UCC New Hampshire Conference is opening the application process for people interested in joining the delegation planning to travel to Zimbabwe in August 4-18 of 2020. The Mission Group will select 9-12 persons for this delegation, which will attend the Christian Youth Fellowship's Annual General Meeting as well as visit partner churches. Cost is estimated between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

An application form and description of the attributes desired of the delegates is available by contacting Rev. Richard Slater. These materials will also be emailed to Ukama coordinators in partnered churches. Deadline for applying is January 17, 2020.

Christmas in the Village

Saturday, December 7th

9am – 2pm

Chester Congregational Baptist Church Vestry

4 Chester Street, Chester

www.chesternhchurch.org

Our craft sale features quality, handmade crafts, unique holiday gifts, delicious bake shop, Tiffany's of Chester, live music and hot cider for all to enjoy.

**At Stevens Memorial Hall:
Loaf and Ladle Lunch will be served from 11am-2pm
Chester Seniors Cookie Walk begins at 9am**





POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order Poinsettias to fill our Sanctuary with color for Christmas. The cost is \$10 each. **Order deadline is Tuesday, December 17th.**

Please complete the form below and include a check made payable to Chester Congregational Baptist Church. If you would like to mail it, please send to P.O. Box 306, Chester, NH 03036.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

or

In Honor of: _____

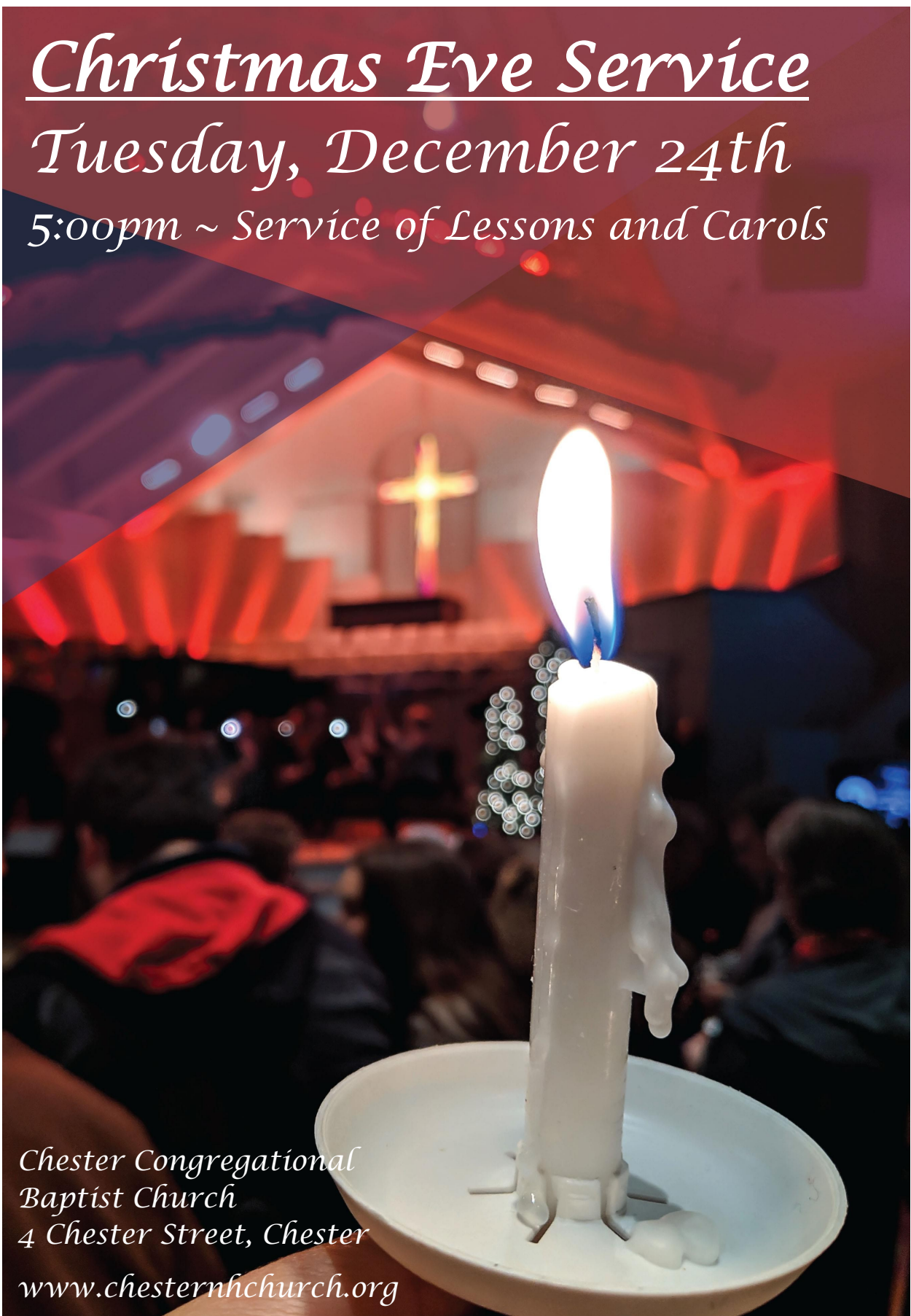
or

Other: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ @ \$10.00 per plant

Total enclosed \$ _____

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24th
5:00pm ~ Service of Lessons and Carols



*Chester Congregational
Baptist Church
4 Chester Street, Chester
www.chesternhchurch.org*



Ready or not, we are entering a busy, exciting time of the year. As I write this letter, there are still plenty of thanksgiving leftovers in the refrigerator from [yesterday](#) and Advent will have already started by the time you read this.

This is such an exciting time of the year, but it can also be a sad time of year for those of us who have lost a loved one or have major life changes going on that make it difficult to celebrate the Christmas season. We are invited to attend the annual Blue Christmas service at Longmeadow Church on [Sunday](#), December the 8th at 7pm.

The Deacons have started a prayer group that meets [Sunday morning](#) in the Vestry before worship. Please join them [from 9:40am to 9:50am](#) for a time of prayer.

The Deacons fund was created to help those in times of need. Please consider donating to the Deacons Fund so that the funds are there when someone is experiencing a crisis. If you know someone who needs assistance, please contact Deacon of the Month. The Deacons have a discretionary Fund that is available. Prayer shawls are also available.

Deb Field is the Deacon of the month for December. As always, if it is a true emergency you may, of course, call the parsonage directly.

The Deacons for 2019 are Deb Field, Mary Hamblett, Paul Scott and Teresa Rogers.



Thanks to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets! Set-up for the Christmas baskets is Thursday, December 19th at 3:30pm. The Food Pantry will be open on Saturday, December 21st to distribute the Christmas baskets.

Current Food Pantry needs:

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Cereal | Powdered drink mixes | Oatmeal |
| Peanut Butter | Canned Fruit | Macaroni & Cheese |
| Spaghetti O's or other canned pasta | Jams and Jellies | Pancake mix |
| BBQ Condiments—mustard, ketchup, relish, etc. | | |

****Supermarket gift cards are always welcome (\$15, \$20, \$25 and \$30 amounts) ****
Please contact Cindy at 887-4626 if you have any questions.

Thanks. Cindy McLaughlin



Briefing from the BORF

Our calendars say that winter doesn't officially begin for at least a few more weeks as we are in the midst of a "one/two punch" with a snowstorm that has dropped close to a foot of snow already, and more to come! Luckily we are well prepared with a new snow thrower (thanks to very generous donors), and a landscape void of leaves and sticks resulting from a very successful and productive clean-up day on November 16th! We had a total of 12 hearty souls equipped with rakes, tarps, leaf blowers, trimmers, loppers, etc. who helped get all three properties cleaned up better than we have been able to do for several years! It was a very cold day; the leaves at the parsonage were frozen underneath several inches of old vegetation, but we managed to get the job done because we worked together side by side! A very big THANK YOU to all who helped with this!

Another good project to report on is that Arron Sturgis and his crew from Preservation Timber Framing have completed the preliminary stabilization work on the roof area around the steeple and tower. Our hope is that this alleviates some of the leaking in the sanctuary prior to the start of the main project which is scheduled for 2021.

On another note, it was very timely that this work was being done so soon after our successful kick off dinner which included friends and neighbors as well as our church family. For a few weeks the entire town was able to see that our project is beginning, and Aaron was extremely gracious answering questions and discussing this with curious people who stopped to talk to him.

The next big project for the BORF is to begin preparing the 2020 budget for presentation and review at the February Business Meeting. Please prayerfully contemplate what you can do to help us meet our day to day financial commitments. Most importantly, consider those non-financial gifts and talents that are so obvious when a need is identified and many graciously give their help whenever the need arises!

Wishing all a blessed Christmas Season, we have so much to be thankful for at Chester Congregational Baptist Church!

Respectfully submitted by the 2019 Board of Resources and Finance.

The Board of Resources and Finance for 2019 consists of Nate Rockwell, Fran Bechtold, Norman Field, Donna Foote, Jean Gagnon and Penny Henderson.

Chester Congregational Baptist Church December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 			4 6:30pm BORF meeting			7 9am-2pm Christmas in the Village
8 11am Deacons' meeting 7pm Blue Christmas 		10 10am Cabinet meeting	11 1-3pm NHCUCC Open Hosue			
15 				19 3:30pm Set-up for Food Pantry		21 9am-noon Food Pantry Christmas baskets distributed
22 		24 5pm Christmas Eve Service	25 			
29	30	31	<p>Sunday Church Service: *10:00am Worship *Communion is on the first Sunday of every month*</p>			



**Chester Congregational Baptist Church
United Church of Christ and American Baptist Churches**

Worship Service

Family Worship 10:00 am

Communion is received the first Sunday of every month

Join us for Coffee Hour in the Vestry following Worship

Office Hours

Admin. Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to noon

Pastor Rackliffe: By appointment

Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Linda J. Rackliffe

Administrative Assistant: Frances Kenison

Custodian: Teresa Rogers

Community Food Pantry

Open 4th Saturday of each month, 9am to noon, in the Vestry.

For more information call: Cindy McLaughlin at 887-4626

Contact Us

Parsonage Phone: 603-887-4792

Pastor Email: chesternhpastor@mygsc.com

Office Phone: 603-887-4799

Office Email: chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net

Church Website: chesternhchurch.org