

CONWAY VILLAGE NOVEMBER 2020 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Volume 9; Issue 11

Strangely Out of Place

"She (Mary) wrapped him in cloths, and placed him in a manger ... there was no room in the Inn"

Luke 2:7b

"Did it still feel like home?" a college student was asked as she returned to campus after the midsemester break. What once seemed so familiar can suddenly seem strange. Change forces us to adapt and can make things seem strangely out of place.

Thinking of Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem, (*doing their civic duty by registering at the Town Hall to appease politicians*), they found they had to muster a certain creativity, flexibility, and resourcefulness. There was no room at the Inn, so they hunkered down in a stable. Suddenly, instead of comfortable surroundings, they were in an obscure village and putting their child in a feedbox! Things were strangely out of place.

Despite their surroundings, despite their plans going awry, they not only "made the best of it" - they celebrated a deeply moving and memorable Christmas! Shepherds, who wondered whether it all was a bad dream, came to worship; Magi, who looked for their inspiration in the starry, starry night, came to bow down; angels, impressed by their ability to harmonize, sang gloriously. The common place - - the downright dusty digs - - the out of the ordinary - - took on eternal significance. Things were not as they should have been ... they strangely turned out divine!

The Church is in the process of figuring out what we can offer for holiday worship for *Thanks-giving, Advent, and Christmas Eve* in a year when it is unsafe to gather. Things are not what they should be ... can we still make it meaningful? Will Christmas be memorable? Will this be the year that we will extoll for many years to come? ('do you remember the year, like none other, when ...'?)

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What do you think the Shepherds were thinking when they said, "Let us go ... and see this thing that has happened"? When they made haste, did they have expectations that their lives would be changed forever? Did they long to experience God in a new, unusual way? This year, The Conway Village Congregational Church hopes to create a meaningful and memorable holiday season to make Christmas come alive!

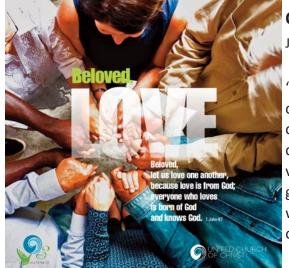
As we approach Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas Eve, and the 12 -days of Christmas, we realize 'things are not what they should be'. (Perhaps we are sharing an environment closer to the original Christmas!)

The Brown Church is taking time to prepare for an unusual set of worship experiences. Perhaps this will be the most memorable Christmas of all! God is coming ... make haste ... Zoom off ... tell everyone you meet ... and then be sure to join us for Christmas!

Rev. John Hughes

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Our Calling: Three Great Loves from a letter by the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

"Three Great Loves," a shared initiative of United Church of Christ congregations, conferences, and the national setting, engages all of us in faith-inspired work for a more just world. Together, we change lives. This initiative reflects the deep purpose, mission, and vision of our Christian movement. Our purpose arises from Jesus' greatest commandment: we will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Many of us came to Church of Christ because of this sense of purpose, mission, and vision. But we need to ensure we do more than speak words. We make our commitment real by embracing **Three Great Loves**:

The love of Neighbor

The love of Children

The love of Creation

Over the next few weeks there will be some references to the Three Great Loves in our weekly letters and worship services. Please prayerfully consider the questions listed below on the ways you, and our congregation, live out these **Three Great Loves**. If the spirit so moves you, we would appreciate your response to any/all of these questions in the written form or through photos, or audio or video recordings.

What is the unique contribution of our church to our community? What distinguishes our congregation from other congregations? Where do you see the love of our church changing lives? How has the love of our church changed your life? How have you been called to love through the church?

We would appreciate any responses to these questions in whichever format you choose. Please send them at your earliest convenience to the church via mail or email them to cvccwebteam@gmail.com

Hopefully, you will be able to make a financial commitment in support of the Brown Church and its missions. The stewardship mailing with pledge cards will be sent out about the same time as this newsletter. If you do not receive a stewardship letter and pledge card and would like one please contact the church 447-3851.

We believe an entire Christian movement that is willing to engage in an extended time of mission to serve these "Three Great Loves" can change the world. We know that your part in this mission matters – no matter where you are located or how large or small your community. Friends, the world needs our great love.

Together, our love for the world can transform it.

Beloved, Beloved, G

Beloved, letusloveone another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7



Happy Birthday

11/10 Phyllis Pettingell 11/12 Dorothy Hunter 11/11 Sut Marshall 11/13 Nancy Geiger

11/16 Dreaner Sanford 11/16 Dawn Vitters 11/16 David Breeden 11/26 Alice Clapp

Please visit our website at thebrownchurch.org http://thebrownchurch.org





Also please like our Facebook Page to keep up to date

https://www.facebook.com/TheBrownChurchConwayNH/

Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Minister Rev. John G. Hughes

> Moderator **Carl Vitters**

Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper **Melody Bergman**

JOIN US

Fridays, 9 am



E STUDIES

Men & Women's Bible Studies are now combined. To join us, please add your email address to our "Join Our Email" list on our website to receive email notifications with the meeting access information.

No Holiday Fair this year Apple Crisp Available for Sale



In an abundance of caution for our parishioners and our patrons, the CVCC annual Holiday Fair and accompanying dinners have been canceled for 2020. We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2021 Holiday Fair.

Looking forward to the 2021 Holiday Fair, perhaps you have a craft hobby that you might consider making, creations to donate for the church to sell, or maybe you would be able to donate one of your creations to the silent, pick-a-prize auction for next year's fair. If you own a business, you might donate an item or a gift certificate. If you are able to do any of these, please contact the church office.

In lieu of this year's Holiday Fair, we will have for sale a **limited number of 9" x 7" Pans of our Apple Crisp** ready for you to bake at home. The pans will be sold online through our website

www.thebrownchurch.org or orders can be placed by calling the church but those or-

ders will not be confirmed until payment is received. Please mail checks payable to CVCC, (do not mail cash). Orders can be placed November 1st thru 15th, until we run out of pans. The pans are fully prepared, uncooked and frozen. They make a great Thanksgiving dessert anytime, some of us enjoy Apple Crisp for breakfast. The pans will be distributed at the church on Thursday November 19th 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Apple Crisp Order Form: Please cut out and include the Or make sure to include the following into	•
Name:	Phone:
Number of Pans Requested x \$15.00) = \$
Additional Donation included. Thank you!	\$
Total Amount of check:	\$
All orders need to be picked up at the church Thurs	sday, November 19 th between 5 – 7 PM
Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing	g when you come to pick up your crisp.

Farewell to our Minister of Music, Roger Miklos

"A celebration of Roger's 16 years at the CVCC as church organist was held at Stonehurst Manor. The congregation is deeply appreciative of Roger's service and dedication to the Brown Church. We give our thanks and wish him Godspeed!







DIACONATE MESSAGE

As I began my November newsletter article for the Diaconate, I wondered what Thanksgiving would mean this year to many families with the Covid virus still a reality. Some might not have the family gathering, others might be meeting virtually. Many in need, we hope, will still be served by gracious religious and charitable organizations like our food pantry that will be wary to keep everyone safe; but provide the food, support and friendship that is so desperately needed.

So, rather than an article about fall and food, I decided to focus on the word THANKSGIVING and its specific letters. How might I tie them to our beliefs, values and relationship with our God? What are some of the verses in the Bible that could be meaningful at Thanksgiving? I invite you to take a walk through our Lord's holy book and find some messages that can reinforce our faith, guide us, give us strength and realize the many blessings we have been given not only at Thanksgiving, but every day. There are many more verses to choose from, but hopefully you will enjoy the Bible search on the few I have chosen.

May God bless and keep your friends and families well throughout this time and the coming days ahead!

T - Thanksgiving Psalm 100, Colossians 3:14-17

H - Harvest Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 12:11

A - Always Matthew 28:20, 1 Peter 3:15

N - Neighbors Mark 12:31, Luke 10:29-37

K - Kindness Titus 3:4-5, Romans 2:4, Galatians 5:22-23

S - Sharing Hebrews 13:15-16, Acts 2:42-47

G - Generosity 2 Corinthians 9:10, Ephesians 4:7

I - Impossible Luke 1:37, Zechariah 8:6-8

V - Valuable Job 28:17-19, Proverbs 8:10-11

I - Invisible Romans 1:20, Colossians 1:15-23

N - News 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Romans 1:16-17

G - Grace 2 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 12:15



Diaconate: Nancy Divine, Deacon of the Month; Louise Saxby, Mitzi Fitch, Holly Necochea, Judy Workman, Dawn Vitters, Suzanne Rancourt



Outreach Committee



Even though we are not meeting as a group, things continue to move along.

The Food Pantry stays busy. Since March, we have started a new way of getting the food to the clients on Tuesdays. They no longer come into the Pantry, instead we load the food into a cart & take it out to the clients. Once the volunteer is back in the Pantry, the client puts their items in their car and brings the carts back to the bottom of the ramp. Then, the volunteer sprays and cleans the cart with disinfectant outside.

We are still receiving shipments the 1st and 2nd Thursday of the month. We have increased what we are getting, due to the fact that we are going through more food. We are no longer able to order on-line from Dollar Tree, instead, we rely on the local store to help us. They have been great.



On Oct. 22nd, Charlyne, John Saxby, Paul and Sylvia went to the Ham Arena to help the Mobile Food Pantry, from the NH Food Bank in Manchester. They brought enough food for 498 families;



New Hampshire

within the hour we were out of food! About 16 or so cars were turned away. Sign of the times!

Starting in November, things start getting really busy. Along with the regular shipments; Walmart, Food Bank and USDA, we will start organizing the Thanksgiving Baskets. Things will

be done a lot different. As always, we will be asking for help, but limited due to having to social distance. The last day to reserve a basket will be November 10th, so if you know of any-



anyon I be

one that is in need, please let Paul or Sylvia know. The Turkey's will be picked up on the 14^{th} . On the 20^{th} , we will be putting the baskets together (as mentioned we will be calling for help). On the 23^{rd} , and the 24^{th} , we will be giving them out.



Here we go. Over the last couple of weeks, the Conway Middle School donated homemade breads and sent them to the Food Pantry along with a letter. They will be given the breads out over the next couple of weeks on Tuesday's until they are gone. A few of the letters are on the next page. Again, a huge thank you goes to all the students at the Middle School for thinking of our Client's.

With all of that going on, we continue to have people call or bring in items. It is a busy time, but a very rewarding time. Everyone take care, stay safe, and we will be together when all is safe. God Bless



You shop. Amazon gives.

Your shopping will support

Conway Village Congregational

Church, UCC

Any questions please contact the church or email the cvccwebteam@gmail.com

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0236859



Thope you love the bread It came from the heart. Have a great trest of your day!

HAPPINESS

is
HOMEMADE

Fleischments //

Hello!

I hope this bread finds you in good health. I have been able to try some bread from this recipe. It is very delicious and I am positive you will enjoy it.

My dissipates and I were very happy with being able to give you some of our bread we had a let of fun baking it. I hope that this bread is something you will enjoy, for I enjoyed this recipe. I hope you have a great rest of your day, and a great near

10/13/20

Dean Receiver,

I Hope this bread finds you. This long weeked I had the privilege to make bread for you and myself.

This bread, I think, is very good. I hope you enjoy it. I hope you and your family have been well during this pandemic and just know, we're all in this together As teacher have said "sharing is caring! We care about You!! Love from,

Sucy A.



Sundays 10:00

Service If you would like the access information to attend these "meetings" please send a request for zoom info to

cvccwebteam@gmail.com



Food Pantry Statistics

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>People</u> <u>Served</u>	<u>Meals</u> Given	Over 60	Under 18	Walk Ins	<u>New</u> Households
January-June 2020	265	575	24,150	183	100	43	25
January-June 2019	256	510	21,420	185	65	38	33
July-October 2020	139	288	12,096	119	39	21	16
July-October 2019	161	376	15,792	99	93	45	28





Conway Village Congregational Church

Food Pantry

By Appointment Only
Tuesdays 9am - 1pm

Serving East Conway, Center Conway, Conway, Eaton, Albany and Chatham.

603-447-3851

Call to make an appointment or for more information.

Outreach Committee

Anne Getchell, Dawn Vitters, Laura Sorensen, Charlyne Gray, Shawn Sylvester & Sylvia Weld

Conway Village Congregational Church Mission Statement

"We are a community of faith in Jesus Christ, open to all, and by following His teachings we willingly serve God, our neighbors and each other through worship, fellowship and ministry."



October Worship Service				
Date	#	Special Day		
10/4	53	Communion Sunday "Abiding with God"		
10/11	53	"Do We Hate God?"		
10/18	51	"What's So Important About A Name" Pulpit Supply—Carl Vitters		
10/25	59	"The View from the Top"		

To add someone to the prayer list Please call 603-447-3851 or email us at info@thebrownchurch.org Thank you

◊ Colleen Albert

♦ Ruth Ward





◊ Linda Frechette

♦ Lisa and Sandy

Stowell

If you use Facebook please "LIKE" our Facebook Page by clicking the "Like" button at the top of the page.

https://www.facebook.com/ TheBrownChurchConwayNH/

This will help folks who may not be familiar with our church know we are

well liked within the community. You will be notified on your Facebook notifications when we post something new. You in turn, if you choose to, can share that post on your page, which is very helpful in promoting

Thank you & God Bless

the church, particularly for promoting our events.



Moderators Moment

To say that 2020 has been a challenging year would be an understatement. But through it all, the church has done remarkably well. We learned that we could still provide a Sunday worship service by using the zoom meeting format. While we had a few glitches from time to time, it has brought us together. Instead of the service being put together by just the minister with some thoughts by the deacons, now the service team consists of many of the deacons searching for music videos to align with the lectionary each week. Steve Graustein has become our IT person in a big way by setting up the meeting and monitoring it throughout the service each week. We have tried new things when I would preach to work out the bugs of a new thing so that Rev. Hughes would not have to deal with issues that could arise. Duddie Andrews has been diligently working on weekly deposits and keeping all the donations straight with the addition of PayPal deposits. Rev. Hughes has added a weekly letter describing the weekly lectionary readings. All this extra work has paid great dividends. Our \$40,000.00 deficit budget for 2020 has been eliminated, thanks in part to increased giving by members and friends and help from two grants, one from the Payroll Protection Program and one from the UCC Conference.

The work that went into the Apple Crisp and Dinner this year was truly inspirational. The dinner served over 240 people, a record. We also sold nearly 200 ¼ pan sized pans of apple crisp and over 30 full sized pans. This was afforded to us by the work of Nancy Irving and Kim Murdoch who utilized the social media formats for advertising and ordering. Nancy Divine and her kitchen team did a tremendous job cooking. Thanks to everyone who came out and made this event the best ever.

We are nearing the time for our stewardship drive. This is the time when I ask that you ponder what you may be able to give this year to continue the work of the church. Speaking of the work of the church, it is also that time of year when we have people coming off boards and need to have replacements. I have one deacon slot which is only a two-year slot that was left open because of our loss of Star this past year. There are two slots on the trustees. This is an exciting time to be on the trustees as we are working on the future needs of the church with the Capital Campaign. Thanks to Duddie for moving up as Financial Secretary, but she needs an assistant. There are only 4 slots that need to be filled. If you would like to help the church in any of these capacities, please let either Melody know or myself. On a sad note, due to the pandemic and lack of regular worship services, our Minister of Music, Roger Miklos had to retire from the service to the church to seek supplemental income. We thank him for all the years of talented service.

Our 2021 budget will have to be tweaked from what was approved in June, but the changes are minor and all in all will be about the same. Some line items will be reduced and some will be increased. While 2020 was challenging as well as rewarding, I'm sure we will be glad to turn the page on 2020.

All God's Blessings, Carl F. Vitters, Moderator

Message from the Trustees

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the take out meal, prep and distribution of the apple crisp. We heard from many that they were very appreciative to get the crisp that they so look forward to at the fair.

There were some ingredients left, so a limited number of pans were made and frozen, ready to bake. These will be sold the same way early in November and distributed on the 19th. A pan of crisp can be your contribution to a Thanksgiving dinner.

We recently met with Bergeron Technical Services to prioritize the work needed on the church. This will be used in the Master Plan they are working on. If anyone has a question about the building project, please contact any Trustee.

We have had a number of requests to use the church by groups who used to use the church for meetings (AA for example). Some have been meeting outside and with the cold weather are looking to move inside. We are working on writing up a protocol to re-open the church for rental of space.

Anne Getchell Nancy Irving Duddie Andrews John Edgerton Nancy Divine Gabe Necochea Kim Murdoch Paul Weld

Carl Vitters, ex officio member (CVCC Treasurer)



TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK				
11/1 Kim Murdoch				
11/8	Gabe Necochea			
11/15	Paul Weld			
11/22	Anne Getchell			
11/29	Nancy Divine			

TRUSTEE'S MEETINGS Tuesdays, 4:30 pm

CVCC's Taste of the Fair - Take-Out Dinner and Apple Crisp Fundraiser



Thank you to all of you who volunteered your time, effort, and talents to the October take-out Dinner and Apple Crisp fundraiser for the church. A lot of hours were spent creating advertisements, promoting the event, tracking the online and telephone sales, coordinating volunteers, transporting apples and the crisp and dinner ingredients, peeling apples, slicing apples, combining ingredients, baking apple crisp, preparing and cooking dinners, serving/packaging the dinners and greeting our patrons, selling and distributing our products.

The event was a resounding success. We sold over 240 Chicken Dinners, and Apple Crisp Sales of: 29 cups, 147 pans, 32 large pans. In addition to their purchases, our patrons contributed \$330 in donations. A lot of our customers were thrilled that we did the Apple Crisp this year. They thanked us profusely telling us it was the one treat that they typically purchase annually at the Fryeburg Fair that they were still able to enjoy this year.

We also want to thank those of you who although unable to volunteer, contributed to the event's success by purchasing Dinners and/or Apple Crisp. The total (gross) income for this event surpassed \$6,000.

We were also able to donate enough pans of apple crisp to Dinner Bell for them to serve to their clientele Monday, October 12th.

Thank you for giving your time and talents to help make this event a success.

Ellen Andreano	Jenn Henley	Louise Saxby
Duddie Andrews	Ella Hill	Amy Snow
Ed Bergeron	John Hughes	Carl Vitters
Kathy Bergeron	Marilyn Hughes	Dawn Vitters
Nancy Divine	Dotty Hunter	Caroline Ward
John Edgerton	Nancy Irving	Paul Weld
Mitzi Fitch	Laura Kenny	Sylvia Weld
Anne Getchell	Margaret Marshall	Donna West
Charlene Gray	Kim Murdoch	Brian Wiggin
Elly Gray	Suzanne Rancourt	Judy Workman
Sharrene Henderson	Mary Russo	Tom Workman



Sunday, November 1st – Communion, All Saints Day

Daylight Savings Time

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12 *Psalm 34:1-10, 22*

1John 3:1-3

Sermon: "Congratulations!"

Sunday, November 8th

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *Psalm 78:1-7*

Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: "Being Shut Out"

Sunday, November 15th

Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: "Hoarding for God?"

Sunday, November 22nd – *Thanksgiving Sunday* Psalm 100

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: "Is This a Parable or a Prophesy?"

Sunday, November 29th – 1st of Advent (year B)

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*

Mark 13:24-37 Sermon: "*The Sky is Falling*"





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SA	
1 10am Zoom Worship Meeting All Saints' Day	Dinner Bell 5-6 pm Take Out Only	Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm TRUSTEES 4:30	4	APPLE CRISP TAKE & BAKE ORDER YOURS NOW !!	6 Men & Woman's Bible Study 9am Zoom Office Closed	7	
8 10am Zoom Worship Meeting	9 Dinner Bell 5-6 pm Take Out Only	10 Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm TRUSTEES 4:30	VETERANS DAY	12	13 Men & Woman's Bible Study 9am Zoom	14	
15 10am Zoom Worship Meeting Last Day To Order Apple Crisp	16 Dinner Bell 5-6 pm Take Out Only	17 Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm TRUSTEES 4:30	18	Apple Crisp Pick Up Day! 5 - 7 pm	20 Men & Woman's Bible Study 9am Zoom Office Closed	21	
22 10am Zoom Worship Meeting Thanksgiving Sunday	23 Dinner Bell 5-6 pm Take Out Only Turkey Basket Distribution	24 Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm Turkey Basket Distribution TRUSTEES 4:30	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 Men & Woman's Bible Study 9am Zoom Office Closed	28	
29 10am Zoom Worship Meeting	30 Dinner Bell 5-6 pm Take Out Only		The Office is	now open Monda	y thru Thursday. 8ai	m to 1pm	