



# CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

January 2021

## THE GOOD NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 1

### Pastor's Reflections

*“whatever you do for  
the least of these...”*

Matthew 25:40

As we come to the end of **2020**, we will have been in quarantine from *March 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>*, **291** days! It has been quite a year for “*The Brown Church*”. Charles Dickens opens his novel, **A Tale of Two Cities**, with a quote:

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,  
it was the age of foolishness, it was the age of wisdom,  
it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity,  
it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness,  
it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ...”*

Charles Dickens uses the quote to contrast 2 cities, *London and Paris*, before and during the French Revolution, yet in our case, we could use the quote for how different individuals have responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic. It seems as if we are witnessing thoughtful, methodical moments, at the same time, we were witnessing thoughtless reactions and chaotic stupidity.

At *Conway Village Congregational Church*, we chose to not react to the Pandemic by demanding our religious rights and keeping a strict ‘*Separation of Church and State*’. Instead, we worked with public recommendations, as well as, applied for public grants, to guarantee the health and welfare of the Mt. Washington Valley. That has always been the mission of our Church, to serve our greater community.

While we have met (*and to continue to meet*) virtually for worship and Bible study, we have adapted our in-person, community feeding programs to meet a heightened demand. ***Food insecurity is on the rise!*** Our pantry is a good example. We continue to accept ‘walk-ins’ (*41 families which means 101 people*) and ‘regular clients’ (*114 families which means 273 people served*), for a total of 155 families (*374 people*) who, because of food insecurity, are continually relying on our services. Our Thanksgiving Baskets numbered **129** for 2020; our Thanksgiving Baskets last year numbered **68**.

Some people will see these numbers and say, “***It’s the worst of times ... the number of families who are hungry has doubled ... How terrible!***” Yet, at the same moment, other people reading the same figures will say, “***How wonderful that the generosity and the volunteers of our Church has allowed us to serve twice as many meals in a secure, sanitary environment to guarantee the health and welfare of our Valley!***”

Perhaps it is best to quote humorist, *Art Buchwald*, who once said:

***“Whether it is the best of times  
or the worst of times...  
It is the only time we have.”***

At “*The Brown Church*”, we have made the best of the times (*and the demands*) we have been given. Whatever the future holds, we continue to hope and pray, that God will guide us to serve those who most need our assistance.



## January Birthdays

1/5	Elwood McLlarky Jr.	1/19	Beverly Taylor
1/7	Laura Kenny	1/21	Sylvia Weld
1/10	Alice Vierus	1/22	Sharrene Bernhardt
1/11	Bobby Graustein	1/25	Eveylyn Breeden
1/14	Chris Wiggin	1/27	John Hughes
1/16	Dwight Smith	1/28	Jill Reynolds
1/18	Nancy Wiggin	1/29	Bethanny Graustein

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](https://www.facebook.com/TheBrownChurchConwayNH)

### CVCC Office Hours

Monday	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Thursday	8:00 am—4:00 pm
CLOSED FRIDAYS	

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**JOIN US**  
**Fridays, 9 am**



CONNECT WITH OUR

**zoom**  
**BIBLE STUDIES**

Add your email address to our "Join Our Email" list on our website to receive email notifications & to request bible study notices with the meeting access information.

You may also send a request to join at

[cvccwebteam@gmail.com](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com).

## DIACONATE MESSAGE

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year, even with this pandemic. Many of us are unable to be with love ones. While that is sad, we have the “magic” of video chats and church zoom services. Being able to see and talk to the ones we love, both friends and family helps ease the pain.

Focusing on our blessings will help us to be truly thankful. All of us on the Diaconate wish you joy and happiness.

My daughter use to run around the house singing “Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.”

I say AMEN

Merry Christmas



### DIACONATE

Judy Workman	Nancy Divine
Louise Saxby	Holly Necochea
Dawn Vitters	Mitzi Fitch
Suzanne Rancourt	

January Deaconess  
of the Month  
Suzanne Rancourt

Next Diaconate Meeting  
Wednesday, January 6th,  
5 pm ~ Zoom

### **Conway Village Congregational Church**

United Church of Christ  
PO Box 333,  
132 Main Street  
Conway, NH 03818

Email  
[info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:info@thebrownchurch.org)

Website  
[www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)  
Phone: 603-447-3851

Minister  
Rev. John G. Hughes

Moderator  
Carl Vitters

Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper  
Melody Bergman

### **POT ROAST SUPPER TO-GO!**

**JANUARY SUPPER**  
**WED. 1/20**  
**JUST \$15/MEAL**

Order online at [www.TheBrownChurch.org](http://www.TheBrownChurch.org)  
or by calling 603-447-3851.

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY -**  
**PRE-PAID ONLY BY 1/15!**  
**PICK UP WED. 1/20, 4:30-6 PM**  
**132 MAIN ST., CONWAY VILLAGE**

*Save the Dates!*  
**2/17: Chicken Parmesan Supper**  
**3/17: Irish Stew Supper**



**CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
The Brown Church  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST





PO Box 333  
132 Main Street, Conway, New Hampshire 03818  
[www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)  
Tel. 603-447-3851

## The Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
Reverend John G Hughes, II

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING



TO: All Members and Friends of the Conway Village Congregational Church

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021, at approximately 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall of the Conway Village Congregational Church after worship. Please be aware that the Annual Meeting will be conducted right after church via Zoom meeting platform. Voting will be done via roll call method. Please email [cvccwebteam@gmail.com](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com) or call the office for the phone in information.

The purpose of this Annual Meeting will be:

1. To hear reports of the officers, board and standing committees for the preceding year.
2. To approve a Budget for 2021.
3. To elect officers, board and standing committee members for 2021.
4. To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 22th of December 2020

Dawn Vitters, Clerk



# Food Pantry Statistics

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>People Served</u>	<u>Meals Given</u>	<u>Over 60</u>	<u>Under 18</u>	<u>Walk Ins</u>	<u>New Households</u>
Annual Total 2020	504	1,085	45,570	367	186	73	56
<i>Annual Total 2019</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>1,075</i>	<i>45,150</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>40</i>

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Here we are into a brand-new year.

2020 was certainly a strange year!

In March it was decided to close the Food Pantry to clients coming inside. We informed the clients to stay in their cars and wait for their food to be brought to the bottom of the handicap ramp. Then, when the volunteers come back inside, the clients could get their food from the carts and load it into their cars. The volunteers would disinfect the carts outside and bring them back in and it start all over again. They would all have their masks and gloves on. Once the pantry was done for the day, anything that was touched in the pantry or the Henderson room would get sanitized.

I think what everyone misses is the contact we had with the Clients and asking how they are doing and how the family is doing. When doing something for a long time you get to know everyone.

We have had a least 1 to 3 new clients a week.

We are all hoping and praying that with a new year we will, at some point, see things going back to the old ways again, keep fingers crossed.

As you can see, we have included a list of items that we use in the pantry and the size we buy. We also except cash!

As always, the Outreach Committee is sending out a "HUGE" Thank You to all that have been right there helping. Everyone one of you are very much appreciated.

The Outreach Committee

Anne, Dawn Charlyne, Laura, Shawn, and Sylvia

## Food Pantry Wish List

Ramen Noodles-Chicken and or Beef  
 Rice-A-Roni-Chicken or Beef  
 Ketchp-20 oz.  
 Mustard-20 oz  
 Mayo-small jar  
 Stable Milk 32 oz.  
 Juice- orange or apple 64 oz.  
 Chicken Broth  
 SM. Soup- Chicken Noodle or Tomato  
 Canned Fruit-15 oz -any kind  
 Jelly- 16 oz. grape or strawberry  
 Sm. canned Chicken and Tuna 5oz.  
 Baked Beans-15 oz.-any kind  
 Canned Pasta-15 oz., any kind  
 Diced Tomatoes-15 oz.  
 Tomato Sauce-15 oz.  
 Pasta Sauce-(can) 15oz.  
 Jar Pasta (jar)- 32oz.  
 Beef Stew-150z.  
 Boxed Spaghetti- 1-lb.  
 Boxed macaroni-elbow-1-lb.  
 Crackers- 1-lb  
 Canned-Peas, Carrots, Green Beans, & corn-15 oz.  
 Cold Cereal- 10.8-any kind  
 Instant Oatmeal- 1-lb.  
 Paper Towels  
 Toilet paper -individually wrapped  
 Shampoo-White Rain or Suave- 24 oz.  
 Dawn- small size  
 Laundry Detergent-Tide-small size  
 Lg. Laundry Detergent- Dollar Brand in green container  
 Hand Soap-Dial 2 or 3 pk bars



Most of these items can be purchased at Dollar Tree and or Shaws. Thank you for your donations!

## Outreach Committee

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

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Total Families	73
Total People	143

### Baskets given to the following:

Conway Elementary	22 Families
Kennett Middle School	6 Families
Kennett High School	12 Families
Way Station	12 Dinners
Conway Police Dept.	2 Dinners
Conway Fire Dept.	2 Dinners



Total Dinners - 56

Total Thanksgiving Baskets - 129

A huge thanks to all who helped, from putting the baskets together to giving them out. This year was a new norm. Someone said, there are "Angels" on earth watching over us". There sure was a lot of them in helping with the Mission. Without all of you we could not have pulled it off.

THANKS and GOD BLESS you all.

The Outreach Committee

### *The Dinner Bell*

Fresh Homestyle Meal

**Everyone is Welcome!!**

**Mondays 4—5 pm**

**Call office on Mondays for menu! 447-3851**

These services continue to operate while taking recommended safety precautions and practicing social distancing.



### 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.

### 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."*

## TRUSTEES MESSAGE

..... and just like that it is 2021, Happy New Year to all.

Despite the challenges presented to us here at the church, we have still been able to see each other on the Zoom Sunday services, have successful fundraisers and with the help of some Covid financial assistance and your pledges, cover expenses.

The 2021 budget has been completed and we thank all of you who sent in your pledge cards. We will review the budget at the virtual Annual Meeting on January 31st, after the service. We hope many of you can attend to approve the budget and committee nominations.

The 2021 Pledge Envelopes are in. We have put them in the Narthex on the table next to the side door (handicap ramp, orange door). You may pick them up Monday thru Thursdays, from 8:30 to 4PM. Ring buzzer to left of orange door to be let into church. Feel free to call the church with any questions.

We chose to do one fundraising dinner per month, for the first quarter of 2021. The first 3 take out dinner dates are January 20th, February 17th and March 17th. A sign up for volunteering will be emailed or you can call the office to sign up.

Due to changes in his employment schedule, Gabe Necochea has resigned from the Trustees. We would like to thank him for the time he put in for the church. If anyone would like to become a Trustee, we would be glad to talk to you about serving.

Anne Getchell      Nancy Irving      Duddie Andrews  
John Edgerton      Nancy Divine      Paul Weld  
Kim Murdoch  
Carl Vitters, ex officio member (CVCC Treasurer)

### TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK

1 / 3	P a u l W e l d
1 / 10	D u d d i e   A n d r e w s
1 / 17	N a n c y   D i v i n e
1 / 24	J o h n   E d g e r t o n
1 / 31	A n n e   G e t c h e l l

## TRUSTEE'S MEETINGS

**Tuesdays, 5:00 pm**

**Z O O M**



**Sundays 10:00**

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

[cvccwebteam@gmail.com](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com)





# Prayer Requests



- ◇ Alice Clapp
- ◇ Cathy Currier
- ◇ Colleen Albert
- ◇ Ruth Ward
- ◇ Bob Kimball
- ◇ Elise Keeney Edgerton

- ◇ Linda Frechette
- ◇ Lisa and Sandy Stowell
- ◇ Bob Kimball
- ◇ Bonnie Kimball
- ◇ Sharon Campbell
- ◇ Jane Allen

December Worship Service Attendance		
Date	#	Special Day/Sermon Title
12/6	52	Communion Sunday - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent "God Speaks with Tenderness"
12/13	56	"God Speaks with Certainty"
12/20	73	"God Speaks in Wonder"
12/24	110	"God Speaks with Light"
12/25	118	"God Speaks thru Us"
12/27	63	"Traditions and New Beginnings"

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



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 the church, particularly for promoting our events.

Thank you & God Bless





# January

## Worship

## Schedule

**Themes: “Bread, Bath, and Beyond”**  
**[communion, baptism, and glory]**

**Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Communion**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14  
Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: “**By Another Road**”

**Psalm 72:1-7, 12-14**

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of Jesus**

Scripture: Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: “**Just How were You Bathed?**”

**Psalm 29**

**Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 2**

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
John 1:43-51

Sermon: “**Being Recognized and then Valued**”

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

**Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 3**

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: “**Resting in God Alone**”

**Psalm 62:5-12**

**Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Epiphany 4**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: “**Knowledge Puffs Up but Love Builds Up**”

**Psalm 111**

# January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> Bible Study 9am Zoom <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10am Zoom Worship Meeting	<b>4</b> Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take Out Only	<b>5</b> Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm <b>TRUSTEES</b> 5:00 pm	<b>6</b> <b>DIACONATE</b> 5:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bible Study 9am Zoom <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10am Zoom Worship Meeting	<b>11</b> Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take Out Only	<b>12</b> Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm <b>TRUSTEES</b> 5:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Study 9am Zoom <u>Office Closed</u> Supper orders deadline	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10am Zoom Worship Meeting	<b>18</b> Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take Out Only	<b>19</b> Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm <b>TRUSTEES</b> 5:00 pm	<b>20</b> Pot Roast Supper 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study 9am Zoom <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10am Zoom Worship Meeting	<b>25</b> Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take Out Only	<b>26</b> Food Pantry 9 am - 1 pm <b>TRUSTEES</b> 5:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Bible Study 9am Zoom <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10am Zoom Worship Meeting						