



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THE GOOD NEWS

February 2023



Volume 12, Issue 2

The Way Out of Devastation

*"Our Father, who is in heaven,
holy is your name ...*

*lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil."*

The Lord's Prayer

The realities of preparing for Lent are quite diverse for different people. People often speak of "***giving up food***" for Lent or "***losing weight***" - - yet for people who are food insecure, is this an option? People often speak of "***making a sacrifice***" for Lent - - yet for people who have little or no material goods to offer, is this an option? Lent can be seen as a demand, an obligation which is unreasonable or a true preparation for the Kingdom of God.

If we look at preparing for Lent as joining Jesus 40 solitary days in a desolate area, (an area known to the Jews as '***devastation***'), perhaps Lent is something to which everyone can relate and with which everyone can identify. The facing of the depravations of anger, evil, depression, and rage today seems to be realities into which people are eager to fall or follow.

Perhaps instead of privation of food or material goods, we could look more to Lent as a season of understanding our emotions and how they prey on us, what they force us to consider, how they can cause us to spiral out of control. Deprivations of spirit and the vitality of life create an atmosphere where havoc reigns. Suppose we returned to a day when people believed there were 7 deadly sins: ***pride, covetousness, envy, anger, sloth, lust, and gluttony***. If we cleansed ourselves of these, would the American dream be a very different reality?

We need to focus on the prayer that Jesus taught, the "***Our Father ...***", particularly the line, "***and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***"

***What kind of World would there be,
if We just took this Prayer to Heart?***

Fundraising Dinner for the
Conway Village Church
The Brown Church
Baked Ham Dinner

Friday, February 10th

All dinners must be prepaid by February 4th

Dinner Price
\$15.00



Dinner Price
\$15.00

Soup + Salad + Baked Ham + Macaroni & Cheese + Vegetable + Dessert

Dine-in Dinners will be served between 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Prepaid Reservations are Required.

To - Go Dinners are also available and may be picked up between 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Dinners may be ordered online at <https://www.thebrownchurch.org/shop/>
or call the church at 603.447.3851 and mail or drop off a check prior to 2/6.



*Proceeds benefit The Brown Church's work to support the
health and wellbeing of the Mount Washington Valley area.*

132 Main St. P.O. Box 333 Conway NH 03816 603-447-3851 info@thebrownchurch.org



We are seeking volunteers to help serve the February 10th Baked Ham Dinner. If you are able to help out at this dinner please follow the link <https://volunteersignup.org/9Y4HA> to sign up online or call the church office 603-447-3851. Thank you.

From the Deacon's Bench

Why are Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday associated to the season of Lent? Well, let me fill you in. Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday, which is the last day or night of eating rich foods before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. For some people it is a celebration or indulgences. For others, it is the day to clear their homes of any delicious or perishable food. They did this so the food would not be wasted during the time of Lent when they would “give up” eating such foods. In many countries or even churches, Fat Tuesday is known as Shrove Tuesday. Most of the time families would make pancakes to use up their eggs, milk, butter, and fat. They also would eat sweets, whether it was sweets on their pancakes or just sweets in general. Onto the season of Lent.

Lent is a period of 40 days, or six and a half weeks, before Easter. The 40 days represent the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert, fasting and preparing for his ministry. Some churches, or people, use Lent as a time of mini sacrifices in preparation of mourning to acknowledge the day that Jesus died. Roman Catholics skip meat on Fridays, which is called abstinence. This is why “Fish Fridays” are so popular. Sometimes people give up desserts, alcohol, or chocolate.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Pastors or priests gather last year's Palm Sunday palm branches, they burn them and mix the ashes with a little oil and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead, then recite the passage from Genesis 3:19 “...For you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. Lent lasts through Holy Saturday which is the day before Easter. Look for activities in the bulletin to see what is happening during Fat Tuesday through the Lenten Season.

Blessings,

Dawn Vitters, February Deacon of the Month



Diaconate Meeting

February 8, 2023

Wednesday, 4 PM

Diaconate

*Judy Workman & Dawn Vitters—Co-chairs,
Beth Campbell, Suzanne Rancourt
and Louise Saxby*



Join us in person

Sunday Worship via Zoom
Website zoom.us/join
Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300
Passcode: 589150

We'll use this meeting until further notice.

Sundays 10:00 AM



Food Pantry Wish List



Ramen Noodles-Chicken and or Beef
 Rice-A-Roni-Chicken or Beef
 Ketchup – 20 oz.
 Mustard – 20 oz
 Mayo - small jar
 Stable Milk box – 20 oz.
 Juice - Orange or Apple – 64 oz.
 Small Soup - Chicken Noodle or Tomato
 Jelly - Grape or Strawberry – 16 oz.
 Small canned Chicken or Tuna – 5 oz.
 Baked Beans – 15 oz.
 Tomato Sauce – 15 oz.
 Beef Stew - Canned – 15 oz.
 Boxed Crackers – 1 lb.
 Boxed Spaghetti – 1 lb.
 Canned Veggies - Peas, Carrots – 15 oz.
 Instant Oatmeal – 1 lb.
 Paper Towels
 Toilet paper – individually wrapped
 Shampoo - White Rain or Suave – 24 oz.
 Dawn Dish detergent – small size
 Tide Laundry Detergent – small size
 Large Laundry Detergent
 Hand Soap - Dial 2 or 3 pk bars



Food Pantry Donations

Please call the office to schedule a drop off time.

Most of these items can be bought at Dollar Tree or any supermarket.

Thank you for your donations!

Thank you,
donors!



Conway Village Congregational Church

By Appointment Only

Tuesdays, 9-11:30 am

Serving Albany, Chatham, Conway, Center
Conway, East Conway & Eaton

603-447-3851

Call for appointment or for more information.

Outreach Committee

Anne Getchell, Sylvia Weld, Charlyne
 Gray, Dawn Vitters, Marilyn Hughes
 & Charles Monaghan

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>
January 2023 (Excludes January 31)	31	65	2,730	32	11	8	1
<i>January 2022</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>2,730</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>

TRUSTEES' MESSAGE – Happy February!

My goodness, February already---it seems like only yesterday it was Christmas. Anne asked me to write the Trustee Message this month and while I have some basic messages to share with you, I confess I am taking a bit of "journalistic license" to share some thoughts with you as well.

Coming Events:

February 10th – Wally and Beth Campbell are hosting our **dinner for the month**. Please come and join us for a wonderful dinner and bring your family and friends at **5:00 PM** for dining in the Fellowship Hall.

See the newsletter announcement.

February 21st – Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) – Enjoy a Pancake Dinner at 5:00 PM complete with plenty of butter and maple syrup, sausage, juice, and coffee. Bring your friends as this is a free dinner for the community. Eat to your heart's content as we prepare to do our sacrificing for Lent.

February 22nd – Ash Wednesday at 6:00 PM – Join us in the sanctuary for our first service of the Lenten season.

As many of you know from our Annual Meeting on January 29th, our operating budget for the church is in a serious deficit. We are starting the 2023 year with \$60,000 in the red. Many of us are struggling to maintain our own personal budgets. The church is also struggling to maintain necessary operations. Higher costs in utilities and lower income with fewer and lower pledges are our reality. We appreciate everyone's support in these difficult times. Giving to the church through your pledges, PayPal, offering plate giving, Facebook donation links and the QR code are all ways to help us support the church and meet our obligations. We thank you for your continued dedication to your church's missions.

The Month of February brings to mind for me the messages of love, kindness and caring for one another. Our church represents these messages. As a kindergarten teacher from long ago and far away, I remember some simple messages shared by Robert Fulghum, a parish minister who wrote some wisdom called, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."

An excerpt from his book in 2003 relates, "[ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned.](#)"

[“-Share everything.](#)

[-Play Fair.](#)

[-Don't hit people.](#)

[-Put things back where you found them.](#)

[-Clean up your own mess.](#)

[-Don't take things that aren't yours.](#)

[-Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.](#)

[-Wash your hands before you eat.](#)

[-Flush.](#)

[-Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.](#)

[-Live a balanced life---learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.](#)

[-Take a nap every afternoon.](#)

[-When you go out in the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.](#)

[-Wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we all are like that.](#)

[-Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup---they all die. So do we.](#)

[-And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned---the biggest word of all---LOOK."](#)

(continued on page 6)

Trustees (cont.)

“Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living. Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or your world and it holds true and firm. Think what a better world it would be if we all---the whole world---had cookies and milk about three o’clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where they found them and clean up their own mess.”

So, as I reflect on all these words from Minister, Robert Fulghum, I think of our church family faced with many concerns. But I take heart in this February, the month of love and caring, that we can take on our personal, professional and church family challenges by remembering Minister Fulghum’s summary words:

“And it is still true, no matter how old you are---when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.”

God Bless You!

Nancy Divine, Trustee

Trustee Board: Anne Getchell, John Edgerton, Tom Workman, Duddie Andrews, Paul Weld, Nancy Irving, Nancy Divine, Carl Vitters, ex officio member



TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK	
2/5	Anne Getchell
2/12	Nancy Irving
2/19	Nancy Divine
2/26	Tom Workman

TRUSTEE’S MEETING

**February 7, 2023
Tuesday, 4:30 pm**

*Faith
Hope
Love* ✨
*but the greatest
of these is Love*
1 Cor. 13:13

Join Us For Coffee Fellowship Following Sunday Morning Worship Services

We are slowly returning to pre-pandemic Sunday mornings. The chairs are fuller than they have been, with more people returning to in person worship and less people attending via Zoom. We are now able to sing familiar hymns from the hymnals accompanied by Stephanie on the keyboard. The music committee and tech team are working with Stephanie to find which "voices" on the keyboard sound best in church and on zoom. Please be patient as we work through this process. Post service coffee fellowship is back! It is great to be able to catch up with all that has happened in each others lives these past few years. Coffee fellowship consists of light snacks, such as pastries or cookies and coffee and juice. There is a sign up sheet available if you would like to provide the light snacks for any given Sunday.



Come Join Our **BIBLE** **STUDY**

~ Women's Bible Study ~

Thursdays 9:30am

Conference Room &/or Sanctuary

~ Men's Bible Study ~

Fridays 9:00am

Conference Room

Also available on Zoom.

If you would like to join a group, please contact the Church office at 603-447-3851 or email info@thebrownchurch.org

The Dinner Bell **FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**

Fresh Homestyle Meal
Everyone Is Welcome!!
Mondays 4-5 pm



Call the Church office on Mondays
for that days menu!
603-447-3851

Take Out Only!

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

Choir has begun!

We are currently meeting weekly, after Sunday services. Feel free to grab a coffee and snack and talk briefly with church friends prior to joining me in the sanctuary. I am also happy and able to offer a weekday evening rehearsal, for those who don't mind driving in the dark and/or prefer a week night choir practice.

If you like to sing, you are welcome! We will be working together, as a team, both by hearing the melody from the synthesizer as well as reading from the musical works we will be practicing and performing. We will sing with accompaniment that I provide for you, as well as a cappella (voices only).

At this point, we can perform during the offertory. There is room for us to branch out to the prelude and postlude parts of the weekly services once the new microphones have come. Also, solos and duets, as well as whole group performances can ensue. We are going to have a wonderful time making music together.

Know that I value each and every member. There is no "I" in team. We will be a team. I so hope you will join This wonderful musical endeavor. COVID almost stopped Our music making. No such luck! We can do this!

Peace and blessings, Stephanie



January Worship Service

Date	In Church	On Zoom	Special Day/Sermon Title
1/1	28	10	Communion Sunday "Get Up! Get Out!"
1/8	23	18	"Let It Be"
1/15	35	19	"Hoping for Restoration"
1/22	28	19	"Follow Me"
1/29			"All Rise ... You may be Seated."



**Our Thoughts
and Prayers
are With you**

† Alice Clapp
 † Cathy Currier
 † Colleen Albert
 † Elise Keeney Edgerton
 † Linda Frechette
 † Alice Spear
 † Jill & Curt Reynolds
 † John Vacchino
 † Wayne & Mitzi Fitch
 † Lycia Morley
 † Father Paul Familia
 † Keith Hutchings, Jr.
 † Carol Baribeau
 † Brenda Hart
 † Tom Steele
 † Nicole Rabideau & Family
 † Sandy Stowell, Lisa Horne & Family
 † Russ Hunter & Family
 † Cory Smith
 † John Hedden
 † Mark Weld
 † Debbie Kelly



**Celebrate
February
Birthdays**



♥ 2/1 Paul Getchell ♥ 2/8 Dan Lavigne
 ♥ 2/4 Marilyn Hughes ♥ 2/13 Dale Hamilton



**To add someone to
the Prayer List**

Please call 603-447-3851

or email us at

info@thebrowchurch.org

Also please provide the persons
mailing address so we may send
cards. Thank you



FREE PANCAKE SUPPER In celebration of Shrove "FAT" Tuesday

Where: Conway Village Church
Fellowship Hall

DATE: February 21st

TIME: 5:00 PM

Price: Free-will Offering

Conway Village Congregational Church
132 Main Street, Conway NH

You will soon see Quick Response (QR) codes on church print materials including our bulletins, pew cards, newsletters, and event flyers. QR codes are a type of barcode that is typically linked to a website or an application. A QR code provides easy access to our website when scanned with a mobile device (phone) camera. The two QR codes below are different they both have a small image of our church in the center. The QR code on the left when scanned takes the user to our donation page. The QR code on the right goes to the home page of our website. There are many potential designs and uses for QR codes but these are two that we will be using for now.



Donate to
Conway Village Congregational Church

\$0.00
USD

☐ Add \$0.00 to help cover the fees.

☐ Make this a monthly donation

[Donate with PayPal](#)

[Donate with Debit or Credit Card](#)

[Cancel and return to Conway Village Congregational Church](#)



The primary reason we have decided to begin using these QR codes is to provide an easy way for people to make donations and to learn more about our church. A lot of people no longer carry much cash with them. This has been evident in our plate donations when we have visitors who would have gladly made a donation, or perhaps given a larger donation but were not carrying cash.

In the future we will likely use QR codes for the Capital Campaign or other specifically targeted donations such as to the Food Pantry.

**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."

Sunday Worship via Zoom
Website zoom.us/join
Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300
Passcode: 589150

To contact the web/tech
team email
[cvccwebteam@gmail.co](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com)

Please visit our website or email us to sign up for our email mailing list. Let us know which types of emails you are interested in, weekly worship, monthly newsletter, special events and volunteer opportunities, website: **thebrownchurch.org**

**Conway Village
Congregational
Church**

United Church of Christ

**PO Box 333,
132 Main Street
Conway, NH 03818**

Email
info@thebrownchurch.org

Website
www.thebrownchurch.org

Phone: 603-447-3851

**Rev. John G. Hughes
Minister**

**Music Accompanist
Stephanie Miles Vacchino**

**Moderator
Carl Vitters**

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



**March
Newsletter
Articles
Due**



CVCC Office Hours

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



Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/TheBrownChurchConwayNH/> You can find it by searching in Facebook for the "Brown Church Conway NH" If you use Facebook please "LIKE" our Facebook Page by clicking the "Like" button at the top of the page.

By liking our page people



will see our church know that 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



The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.

Mother Teresa

Share the
love of Christ
on Valentine's Day.

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	3 9:00 Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	4 9 am AA Good Morning Group
5 10 AM Worship 6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit	6 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out only	7 Food Pantry 9-11:30 am By Appt 4:30 Trustees Meeting	8 4pm Diaconate	9 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	10 9:00 Men's Bible Study  <u>Office Closed</u>	11 9 am AA Good Morning G
12 10 AM Worship 6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit	13 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	14 Food Pantry 9-11:30 am By Appt 	15 4:30 Council Meeting	16 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	17 9:00 Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	18 9 AM AA Good Morning
19 10 AM Worship 6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit	20 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	21 Food Pantry 9-11:30 am By Appt 	22 	23 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	24 9:00 Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	25 9 AM AA Good Morning Group
26 10 AM Worship 6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit	27 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	28 Food Pantry 9-11:30 am By Appt				



When we choose to walk in love,
we have the power of God in our lives.

February Worship Schedule 2023

Sunday, February 5th – Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

Meditation: "**God's Inspiration and Values**"

Psalm 112:1-9

Sunday, February 12th – Epiphany 6

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: "**Dealing with the Realities of Everyday Life**"

Psalm 119:1-8

Sunday, February 19th – Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "**We're Unable to See What is Coming**"

Psalm 2

Tuesday, February 21st – Shove Tuesday Dinner

Wednesday, February 22nd – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Meditation: "Let Us Begin Again"

Psalm 51:1-17

Sunday, February 26th – Lent 1

Scripture: Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: "**Starting Out in the Wilderness**"

Psalm 32