



CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS

November 2023



Volume 12, Issue 11

A Healthy Harvest in Conway Village

It was a hot, clear spring day, when the fields were being planted by the Davis family behind the Elementary School in Conway Village. Jake Davis was sticking his hand in a slurry of organic fertilizer preparing the mix for the tractor.

Sarah Davis was taking a seat at the back of the tractor across from Ceilia Wilcox as the blades prepared to cut the weed tarp, and the tractor was to give a squirt of fertilizer so the two women could insert plants into the soil, row on row.

The natural farming of Jake and Sarah is a three-point program. They offer prepaid Community Supported Agriculture Shares, which account for half their harvest. They share their harvest weekly to help with food insecurity in the Village through the Tuesday morning Brown Church Pantry and the Monday night Dinner Bell community meals programs. Then there is their mission to create an Agricultural Literacy, the economics behind the farm-to-fork reality of organic food production, with High School and Middle School youth.

“Students meet with us every Wednesday for six weeks. They plant seed and small plants, spread the row covers, help with the ‘pollinator plots’ (flowers) that border the fields, and learn how to work with nature – it is a partnership that gets results they see at harvest time.”

Students work in teams, get hands-on experience, and learn to work cooperatively for a common purpose.

“Some students need to move to learn, to be resilient as they meet roadblocks to success. Failure is part of life, and our children need the confidence of trusting each other and a process that leads them forward.”

After harvesting, each student has organic food to cook at home with their parents.

“Pizza Night seems to be the most popular choice”, says Sarah, “The pandemic resulted in children and families feeling isolated, disconnected, with a lack of social interaction. Our program is collaborative. It’s about sharing our disappointments and finding a way through, as well as, offering a healthy meal to be shared by our families.”

Sarah is a Clinical Mental Health Counselor, who graduated from Southern New Hampshire University. She mentioned a pilot program offered by UNH for the Mental Health of farmers who have been overwhelmed by the pressures they faced. This year there was an abundance of groundhogs, coyotes, deer, and black bears ready to take their piece of the harvest. Twenty-three days out of the 30 in June saw rain. The wet and cold conditions would slow down the growing season by several weeks. Jake would return night after night to cut furrows for the water to drain, an increase of 50 percent labor. Rick and Celia Wilcox would patiently travel each row of plants handpicking the bugs as insecticides were not to be used. The weather conditions favored bugs.

“That’s part of farming”, said Sarah, “learning to live with the bugs and giving them their share is part of it, although we try to limit the damage. It takes a family commitment, a shared vision.”

When asked what she gets out of farming with all its challenges, Sarah reflects, “I love working in Nature. I watch Jake in his zone as he works the tractor. There, surrounded by buzzing bees, the chirping of birds, the touch of the wind and the warmth of the sun in the Swift River floodplain, you have a spiritual feeling that you are part of something much greater than yourself. Gratitude is why I do it, it brings me a sense of wholeness.”

Visiting the farm field of the Davis family, you realize they are doing more than growing vegetables and flowers in Conway Village – they cultivate community.

Reverend John G. Hughes

(originally published in Conway Daily Sun, Friday, September 1, 2023)



Conway Village Church 132 Main St. Conway NH 03818 603-447-3851 info@thebrownchurch.org

How you can help make the December 2nd Christmas Fair & Tree Lighting a success

In order for the Christmas Fair to be a successful fundraiser we will need your help.

There are many ways you can help.

- Create & donate gift baskets for the Pick-a-Prize auction.
- Donate prizes for the Pick-a-Prize auction
- Visit businesses to ask for or pick up donations (letters were sent to area businesses Oct 23-24)
- Bake goods for the bake sale – Jill Reynolds Bake Sale Coordinator
- Volunteer to assist with the set up on Friday Dec. 1st or Saturday Dec 2nd morning
- Volunteer to help serve the luncheon, or other volunteer opportunities that day
- Spread the word, invite your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers

Please contact Nancy Irving or Dawn Vitters for more information or to let us know of any prize donations you will provide, or volunteer work you are willing to assist with. Thank you. email: cvccwebteam@thebrownchurch.org



Food Pantry Wish List

Ramen Noodles-Chicken &/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



Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Decorate your table

with a Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet!

For the entire month of November, when you purchase a Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet at our N. Conway Hannaford we will receive \$1!

Outreach Committee

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

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!

CVCC Food Pantry By Appointment Only

Tuesdays, 8:30-12 pm

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

603-447-3851

Call for appointment or for more information.

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 - October 2023 <i>Excludes October 31st</i>	316	635	42,942	300	81	65	38
January - October 2022	333	717	30,114	324	124	65	37

Would you like to help out in the Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help put the **Thanksgiving bags** together for our pantry clients. We are planning on meeting after church, approximately 11 am, on Sunday, November 19th. We will also need help distributing the Thanksgiving Dinner bags to the pantry clients on Monday and Tuesday, November 20th and 21st, from 8am to 2pm. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!



Paul and Sylvia are looking for two people to become Coordinators for the Food Pantry starting January 1, 2024 for the second and third weeks of each month. After 15 years, we are looking to step back. Training will be provided. Anyone interested please contact Paul or Sylvia at pweld89@gmail.com

Thanks and God Bless

The Welds

New
Volunteer
Opportunity!



Jesus
is the
Reason
for the
Season

December Newsletter Articles

Due By » Thank you!

November

20



Sundays 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship via Zoom
To access Zoom meeting by Phone

Phone Number: 1 646 558 8656
(for audio only)

Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300
Password: 589150

Join us in person!



Join Us For Coffee Fellowship Following Sunday Morning Worship Services

Fellowship time is a great support time. It is wonderful to be able to chat with each other and keep up with what is happening in our busy lives. 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. Thank you.

Sunday Coffee/Tea Fellowship
Temporarily suspended due to
increased Covid in the community.
Stay Safe & God Bless



TRUSTEES' MESSAGE



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Elizabeth Andrew

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with the fair this year. This includes preparing and cooking the crisp and working in the booth during the fair. Volunteers put in 418 hours prepping and cooking and 304 hours working in the booth.

The weather during the fair was not the best "crisp selling" weather. Eighty-degree days and one rainy washed out day did reduce sales. We made 486 pans and sold 359. We grossed \$35,115 and after expenses we netted \$25,300. We were down \$5,000 from our budgeted amount.

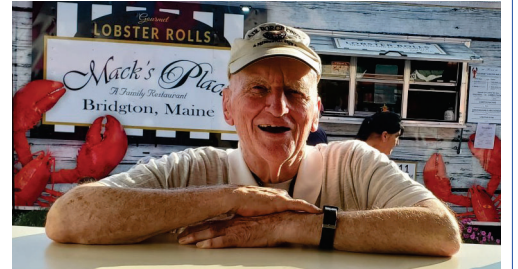


Volunteers Anne Getchell, Kerri Deangelis, Caitlin Baldwin & Carrie Smith



Volunteers Ron & Andrea Plante

We have over 100 pans left, which are now frozen and ready to sell. Pans are \$35 each and a great treat to bring to family gatherings now and over the holidays, events, or just to have for yourself! Contact Melody at the office to get yours!



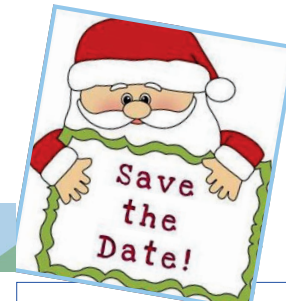
John Edgerton, Trustee

November is when we start working on Stewardship and working on the next budget. Your pledges help greatly. As we all know, the budget is a tight one and expenses keep going up. The Trustees look over the financials on a weekly basis. Ideally, our pledges and fundraising would cover the expenses, but they do not. We continue to have to use endowment funds. However, those funds are depleting, and likely will only last another 2 years. We will discuss further with everyone at the annual meeting in January 2024.

Save the date for the December 2nd event. It has expanded this year. If you are interested in helping out, contact Nancy Irving or Dawn Vitters.

Hometown Christmas Fair & Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 6:30



TRUSTEE'S MEETING

Tuesday,
November 8, 2023
4:30pm



TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK

11/5	John Edgerton
11/12	Anne Getchell
11/19	Nancy Irving
11/26	Nancy Divine

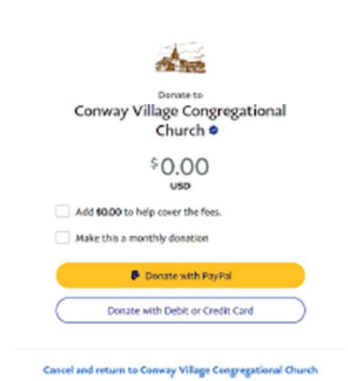
Trustee Board ~ Anne Getchell, John Edgerton, Duddie Andrews, Nancy Irving, Nancy Divine, & Tom Workman, ex officio member, Treasurer

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

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.



To contact the web/tech team email cvcwebteam@gmail.com



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.

Church Humor
(Messages from Other Churches)

Be an organ donor.
Give your heart to Jesus!

Faith can move mountains but don't be surprised when God hands you a shovel.

Forgiveness is swallowing when you want to spit.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.



**The Dinner Bell
Fresh Homestyle Meal
Everyone is Welcome!!**

**NOV. 6th WE RETURN
TO WINTER HOURS!**

Mondays 4-5 pm

Free Community Dinner



Call the Church office on Mondays to get the days menu!



603-447-3851 Take Out Only!

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

From the Deacon's Bench



Thanks & Giving

As we enter the month of November, thoughts move to the coming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. These are special times spent with family and friends. They are also times to reflect on the many blessings we receive and share those blessings by giving to others. In a time when many folks have concerns about supporting their families, our church's Food Pantry and the Dinner Bell offer comfort and help with food security. Sometimes we think, if we can't be part of a "big program" or give "big things" we can't give anything. I believe a card to those who are unable to leave their home, a smile and a "good morning" to start someone's day, a phone call "just to check in" on someone, time spent just talking and listening to a friend---small things make a difference and can be a blessing!

So let us give thanks through the coming holidays for the blessings we have received from a loving God and pass along those blessings to others.

God Bless, Nancy Divine

A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, so oftentimes, as any other day
When we sit down to our meal and pray
We hurry along and make fast the blessing
Thanks, Amen. Now please pass the dressing
We're slaves to the olfactory overload
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided
And bless each and every person invited
Amen!

Diaconate

Co-Chairs - Louise Saxby & Judy
Workman; Treasurer - Dawn
Vitters; Secretary - Beth Campbell,
and Nancy Divine

Deaconess of the Month

Nancy Divine

Diaconate Meeting

November 2023

4pm

Date TBD

October Worship Service

Date	In Church	On Zoom	Children	Special Day/Sermon Title
10/1	28	~	2	Communion Sunday "Striking the Rock Faithfully"
10/8	21	~	1	Special Guest Musician Katherine Rhoda "Leaving the Past Behind"
10/15	27	~	0	"Swallowed Up in Victory"
10/22	20	3	1	"Paying Up What is Due"
10/29				Stewardship Sunday "What will Our Children Inherit?"



To add someone to the Prayer List

Please call
603-447-3851
or email us at
info@thebrownchurch.org

Also, please provide
the person's mailing
address so we may
send cards.
Thank you



- Prayer Requests
- † Cathy Currier
 - † Colleen Albert
 - † Elise Keeney Edgerton
 - † Linda Frechette
 - † Alice Spear
 - † Jill & Curt Reynolds
 - † Tom Steele
 - † Carol Baribeau
 - † Sandy Stowell, Lisa Horne & Family
 - † Mark Weld
 - † Debbie Kelly
 - † Greg Turgeon
 - † Russ Hunter & Family
 - † Paula Burgess
 - † Alexandra Tiresta
 - † The Philippine People & the Philippines
 - † Bonnie Kimball
 - † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger
 - † Erin
 - † Roy Andrews
 - † Suzanne & Eddie
 - † Misty
 - † Corey & Family
 - † Marcia Dolley and Family
 - † Frances (Wiggin) Morrill
 - † The People & Nation of Israel

November Birthdays



- 🕯️ Sut Marshall
- 🕯️ Nancy Geiger
- 🕯️ Dreaner Sanford
- 🕯️ Dawn Vitters
- 🕯️ Holly Necochea



Happy Birthday

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."

~Women's Bible Study~
Thursdays, 9:30am

~ Men's Bible Study ~
Fridays, 9:00am

women's
BIBLE STUDY

MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Conference Room &/or Sanctuary, 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

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

Moderator
Carl Vitters

Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper
Melody Bergman

Conway Village Church

The Brown Church

132 Main St Conway, NH 03818 603-447-3851

Apple Crisp

\$35 per pan

Purchase Apple Crisp by the Pan (10"x12")

Our Apple Crisp is a great holiday or any day dessert.

Call or email the church to purchase and arrange a pick-up time
603-447-3851 info@thebrownchurch.org

Your patronage supports our local community outreach

*Call the office to
order your Apple
Crisp before
they're gone!*



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	

facebook

Email or Phone Password Log In
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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



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	3 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	4 9 am AA Good Morning Group
5 10 AM Worship Stewardship Sunday 	6 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	7 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	8 4:30pm Trustees	9 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	10 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	11 9 am AA Good Morning Group
12 10 AM Worship Stewardship Sunday	13 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	14 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	15 4:30 Council Meeting	16 9:30 am Woman's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book	Big Book 17 9 am Men's Bible Study	18 9 am AA Good Morning Group
19 10 AM Worship Thanksgiving Sunday	20 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only  Deadline Today!	21 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	22	23  <i>May His blessings always be with you! Have a blessed Thanksgiving!</i> <u>Office Closed</u>	24 9 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	25 9 am AA Good Morning Group
26 10 AM Worship	27 Dinner Bell 4-5 pm Take out Only	28 Food Pantry 8:30-12 pm By Appt	29	30 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm AA Big Book		



November

2023 Worship Schedule

November 5, 2023 – Necrology

Psalm 43

Scripture: Micah 3:5-12
Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon: **"Being Genuinely Transparent"**

November 12th

Psalm 78:1-7

Scripture: Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20
Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: **"One Step at a Time"**

November 19th – Thanksgiving Sunday

Psalm 123

Scripture: Judges 4:1-9
Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: **"On the Road to Glory"**

Sunday, November 26th – Rein of Christ Sunday

Psalm 100

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: **"There's a Phone Call for You ... It's God!"**