



THE GOOD NEWS

What is Easter to Be?

*“... for terror and amazement
had seized them;
and they said nothing to anyone,
for they were afraid.”*
Mark 16:8

The oldest transcripts of the Gospel of Mark end at chapter 16, verse 8. The women, who are the first witnesses of resurrection, say nothing to anyone! They have purchased spices at sundown Saturday to properly anoint the body of Jesus at dawn Sunday. Performing, what turns to be a “dead” (i.e., unneeded) ritual, they run into proof of a living Christ - - they panic, they say nothing! Even the most faithful followers of Jesus fail in Mark’s eyes.

When Mark wrote his Gospel, people had been telling the story of the Risen Christ for years. People knew the story - - People knew the ending. **Why does Mark leave us with a “non-ending” story?** Scribes, writing his Gospel years later, could not tolerate that it ended so abruptly, so, they do what good scribes do - - they “finished” his Gospel by adding an ending (verses 9-20). Scribes need everything described, everything explained. Mark obviously did not need what the scribes needed - - Mark left the ending of the Easter story to the Holy Spirit and to his readers.



Mark’s Gospel leaves the end of the story to the reader of his Gospel. At the end of Mark, everyone and everything has failed to measure up - - **Now, what?**

Isn’t that where the Conway Village Church finds itself? This Easter, we find ourselves standing at the brink of an “uncompleted story”, left with the question,

“What Should the Ending of this Easter Story Be?”

Do we compose the rest of the Gospel for ourselves as we meet the Resurrected Christ and follow? Can we write our own ending?

***These profound questions are Mark.
The Answers ... Ours!***

*Yours through Christ,
Rev. John Hughes*

Easter 2024



The Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Reverend John G Hughes, II

PO Box 333

132 Main Street, Conway, New Hampshire 03818

www.thebrownchurch.org

Tel. 603-447-3851

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

February 22, 2024

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

Change of Worship Service to begin at 9:30am

We have moved the service time to 9:30 am to provide sufficient time for both our worship service and our special meeting, while being mindful of the Majestic's schedule.

A Special Meeting of the Membership of the Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, April 21, at approximately 10:30 am following the church service in person and via Zoom. As in the past the vote will be for members only and will be conducted by roll call. Please use the weekly link for the church service to participate in this vote if you are attending by Zoom.

The purpose of this Special Meeting will be:

To discuss the options for church.

To review changes to the By-laws.

To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 21st of February 2024

Melody Bergman,
Administrative Assistant



Oil tanks cleaned, then cut up, and removed from crawl space area. Thank God they were removed before the fire!
Fire pictures on next page.



First step ~ jackhammering frozen, oil contaminated, soil.



Step 2 ~ of soil removal. Step 3 ~ soil removed by truck!



All freezers & fridges are removed.



World's Largest Shop Vac!

Council and Flood Update

Welcome March! This is the month we gain the most daylight and sunset is around 5:30.

We had a well attended Council meeting in February, held at the Conway Fire Department. We discussed the six options that were presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting and in the last newsletter. Thank you to all who responded. Council members were asked to do research on each option. We will review at the next meeting in March, and will be shared with all at the Special Meeting scheduled for April 21st after church. **The next Council meeting is on March 20th at 4:30 and anyone can attend.**

The **Special Meeting in April** will be after the church service. We are planning on **starting the service at 9:30** that day, so that we have plenty of time to discuss the options for the church and changes to the by-laws. We hope members will attend.

The Trustees continue to monitor the finances. The first two months show a deficit. We thank all of you who are keeping up your pledges. Pledges alone do not cover the operating income of the church. We are not able to have fundraisers or collect income for building use, so the income is down. We want to thank the pantry and Dinner Bell for continuing to support the church.

On February 17th, we had a walk through at the church, open to anyone. There were 15 attendees including church members, community members, a town Selectman and the Daily Sun. We gave them a tour and discussed the challenges we have ahead of us.

The flood clean up in the crawl space resumed at the end of February. Clean Harbors removed the oil tanks and began removing the 40 tons of contaminated soil. When they arrived on the 15th, they set up a small heater outside the crawl space access. Unfortunately, it was too close to the church and started a small fire (see pictures on next page). Luckily, it was noticed early and put out quickly.

More to come, but it looks like the pantry will re-open in Conway Village in temporary space right on Main Street. Thank you Paul and Sylvia!

The church has quite a task ahead in the coming months. We will be discussing the options with church members at the Special Meeting on April 21st. Rev. Hughes recently suggested, "We need to re-imagine the Brown Church Building". We have church service on Sundays, and two bible studies each week, the Pantry and Dinner Bell. How can we fill the space during the other times? How can the church building be used to support the operating budget? How do we create a property that supports our missions in the village in a meaningful way for the future? We are looking for feedback from both members and the community.



Special Meeting Notice!

10:30 am April 21st
following
worship service
WORSHIP SERVICE TO BEGIN AT 9:30 am



Easter is early this year. Mark your calendars for Palm Sunday, March 24th, Maundy Thursday, March 28th, Good Friday, March 29th & Easter Sunday, March 31st.

TRUSTEE'S MEETING

Tuesday, March , 2024 4:30pm

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



The portable heating unit is what caused our fire on Friday, February 15th.

It was positioned too close to the wall. It was by the "grace of God" that a fireman was in his truck at the elementary school, saw the fire and used our pantry extinguisher to put it out!

We now have a new commercial Fire Sole Path StarLink Cellular Communicator, installed by Pope Security Systems.





OUTREACH CVCC Food Pantry

Update of Food Pantry



We were able to get a building in the Village right on Main Street, THANKS to an angel stepping up! Details are being worked out. We are looking to get back up and running again by sometime in March. As things progress, we will provide an update in the April newsletter. Will see you soon !!

The Vaughan Center is graciously taking our pantry clients.
Their hours are Tuesdays noon—1:30 and Thursdays 1-2:30.
Please DO NOT call them, as no appointment is necessary.
You may see Paul & Sylvia there!

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

Outreach Committee
Anne Getchell, Charlyne Gray,
Marilyn Hughes & Charles Monaghan



Having fun
moving pantry
stock to
Vaughan!

February Worship Service

Date	In Church	On Zoom	Special Day/Sermon Title
Thank you Majestic Theatre			
2/4	28	14	<i>Communion Sunday</i> <i>"Everyone is Looking for You"</i>
2/11	49	9	<i>"What Does It Mean to be Saved?"</i>
2/18	25	16	<i>"The Gift of Clear Conscience"</i>
2/25			<i>"Calling Forth the Non-Existent"</i>

To add someone to the Prayer List

Please call 603-447-3851 or email info@thebrownchurch.org
Also, please provide the person's mailing address. Thank you

Happy
birthday

MARCH

Birthdays

<p>🕯️ Susan Klomp</p> <p>🕯️ Jennifer Lavigne</p> <p>🕯️ Donna West</p>	<p>🕯️ Jonathan Saxby</p> <p>🕯️ Karen MacDonald</p> <p>🕯️ Gary MacDonald</p>
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Prayer Requests

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

From the Deacon's Bench



(This is) Holy Ground

By Christopher Beatty

This is Holy ground, we're standing on Holy ground,
For the Lord is present, and where God is, is Holy...
This is Holy ground, we're standing on Holy ground,
For the Lord is present, and where God is, is Holy.

For me, I hear the voice of God through music. The first Sunday that we held services at the Majestic Theater, I woke with the song Holy Ground playing in my mind. The words and music continued as I walked to church in the Majestic Theater. As I entered the theater, I felt as though I was worshiping in a grand cathedral in Europe. As the weeks have passed, that song keeps playing in my mind. I have thought about worship spaces mentioned in the Bible. Abraham worshiped on a mountain. Moses met God on Mt. Sini. As people claimed God as Their God, a tent was sewn, to be carried through the 40 years of wandering in the desert.

David wanted to build a Temple, a house For God, but God told him that was for another to do. Solomon built that temple, which was destroyed years later, rebuilt, and destroyed again. Before that destruction, the curtain that separated the Holy of Holy's from the temple was torn, at the time when Christ was crucified. With Christ, we could now approach God, we didn't have to rely on a priest.

When I was going through confirmation, a group of us attended a program where we were divided into small groups, given different types of building materials, and told to build an ideal church. Some students built 4 walls and a typical sanctuary, some had the people sitting in a circle. My group tried to build a walk in nature, the place we felt closest to God. One group had Tinker Toys, and took what looked like an axel, put it on its side, and had arms reaching down from the top wheel, and arms reaching up from the bottom wheel. The leader of that group explained that church was the connection made with other people.

We, the members of the Conway Village Congregational Church, have more than King David, we have a safe building where we can meet, while we decide what to do. And, as I learned in Confirmation Class, the church is the people, supporting each other, as we join to worship God.

True, we have lost one of our most important parts of church, and that is the space that we used to minister to/with the community. While we lick our wounds, and decide what CVCC is being called to be, we need to know that we have Holy Ground, here and now, for where God is, is HOLY.

The Board of Deacons

Judy Workman, Louise Saxby, Beth Campbell, Charles Monaghan, Jill Reynolds.

Deaconess of the Month

Jill Reynolds

Diaconate Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

4:15 pm

Judy's House

Diaconate

*Co-Chairs - Louise Saxby &
Judy Workman;*

Secretary - Beth Campbell,

Treasurer - vacant

Jill Reynolds & Charles Monaghan

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, 1:00pm

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



Women's Bible Study Location and Winter-Time Change

Women's Bible Study has changed its meeting location to our home in Evergreens on the Saco. We continue to meet on Thursdays, but due to winter weather, we have changed the meeting time to **1:00 PM**. We continue The Chosen, Season 3. We hold make-up viewing sessions, in case you miss an episode. Everyone is Welcome! Any questions, call the church office to let me know.

Judy Workman

Women's BS will NOT meet on March 7th.

The **Men's bible study** meetings held at Charles Monaghan's or Tom Workman's homes. Call for specific day. Zoom may be available in the future. 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
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Email

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Website

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Phone: 603-447-3851

**Rev. John G. Hughes
Minister**

**Moderator
Carl Vitters**

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

CVCC Office Hours

While we work on repairing the flood damage, the office will be operating remotely during normal hours. Feel free to contact us via phone or email. Thank you.

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 and 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



TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK	
3/3	Nancy Irving
3/10	Nancy Divine
3/17	Duddie Andrews
3/24	John Edgerton
3/31	Anne Getchell

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




The Dinner Bell

Due to the recent flooding in the church, all Dinner

Bell community meals have been postponed until further notice. Please accept our apologies!





Newsletter
 Articles
 Due By »
 Thank you!





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!



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

**Come worship with us at the Majestic Theatre
on Sundays at 10am,
36 Main Street, Conway. Parking is in back of the
theatre, on Main St., and at Station Bistro and Saco
Bay Physical Therapy across the street.
We thank the Majestic staff and supporters
for sharing their venue with us.**



March Worship Schedule 2024

Sunday, March 3rd – Lent 3

Psalm 19

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Sermon: “*For What are You Looking?*”

Sunday, March 10th – Lent 4/ Rose Sunday

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9
John 3:14-21

Sermon: “**Look UP! ... Believe!**”

Sunday, March 17th – Lent 5

Psalm 51:1-12/Psalm 119:9-16

Scripture: Jeramiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33

Sermon: “*What Counts Spiritually?*”

Sunday, March 24th – Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 9-29/Psalm 31:9-16

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11 (*Litany of the Palms*)
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:7-11

Sermon: “*Why Waste Precious Ointment?*”

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-7, 31b-35

Meditation: “*Later You will Understand*”

Good Friday, Thursday, March 29th

Psalm 22

Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:6
John 18:1-11

Sermon: “*That Which was Told, See!*”

Easter Sunday, March 31st

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: “*Who will Roll the Stone?*”

March 2024



unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Remember to Spring your clocks ahead March 10th !			1 9am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	2
3 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre Third Sunday of Lent	4	5 4:30pm Trustees	6	7 1pm Women's Bible Study	8 9am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	9
10 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre Fourth Sunday of Lent	11	12	13	14 1pm Women's Bible Study	15 9am Men's Bible Study	16
17 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre Fifth Sunday of Lent	18	19	20 Article s Due Today! Council 4:30pm Conway Fire Department	21 1pm Women's Bible Study	22 9am Men's Bible Study	23
24 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28 No Women's Bible Study Mandy Thursday	29 9am Men's Bible Study Good Friday <u>Office Closed</u>	30 Holy Saturday
31 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre Easter Sunday						