



Conway Village Congregational Church
"The Brown Church"

The Good News

May 2024

Volume 13

Issue 5



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Pastor: Rev. John Hughes

The Conway Village Church

Home of the Conway Food Pantry & Dinner Bell

Joyfully Announces

The Church & it's missions WILL RE-OPEN!



Fundraising , Repairs & Upgrades to begin in earnest soon!

Conway Village Congregational Church

Votes to Reopen the Upper Floor of The Brown Church Building

At a Special Meeting, called to order by Moderator Carl Vitters following the Sunday worship service on Sunday, April 21, 2024, the Church leadership confirmed that a quorum was met. The traditional Congregational Meeting involved receiving information from Trustee, Anne Getchell and Trustee, Nancy Divine, as well as Pastor John Hughes. The various options offered in a pre-mailing were thoroughly explained before a vote was taken on the future of the Brown Church.

It was rewarding to see our church members, through their prayers and reflections, come to a unanimous decision to continue the presence of the Conway Village Congregational Church on Main Street, as well as continuing to offer its unique missions of Pantry, Dinner Bell, and its outreach for the Health and Welfare of the Mount Washington Valley. May God continue to bless the church's future with generosity, compassion, and abundance.

From Brian Wiggin's social media post following the April 21st meeting:

"Congratulations to the Brown Church for their traditional congregational meeting this morning ... After wonderful information was given, it was voted to rebuild our church in increments as can be afforded. Our first step is to raise the funds necessary to reinstitute the heating system so the Dinner Bell and Food Pantry can be resumed - two signature outreach programs of the church. After a two-hour discussion, it was rewarding to see our members come together not only for the Brown Church but for the community. Lots of prayers will be needed along the way and we thank all of you."

TRUSTEES

Stewards of the Church



TRUSTEES TIDINGS

It has been a long winter with the cold, storms, wind and flooding. The Brown Church lost the use of its building in December. We have many dedicated church members and a lot of work and planning has been going on behind scenes. Work has been done to keep the church services going every Sunday at the Majestic, work in cleaning up the food pantry and work on details of the options available to the church after the flooding. All meetings have been held in peoples homes, over coffee or a meal at a local establishment.

Spring brings rejuvenation to many and the Brown Church got a feeling of rejuvenation on April 21st. The Trustees and Council have been working on the options available to the church. At the Special Meeting on the 21st, we were able to present information to the congregation and have a vote on next steps. We are very appreciative of the 35 members who attended either in person or on zoom. We heard from many of you and thank you for sharing.

On the 19th, the American Legion held their monthly Fish Fry to benefit the church. It was the biggest turn out they have ever had. Folks expressed their support to see the church re-open. For the last 5 months, the word on the street has been, “please open and bring the pantry and the Dinner Bell back”, You can’t leave the village”, The Brown Church does so much.”

The unanimous vote (with 2 abstentions) at the April 21st meeting was to restore the church to pre-flood conditions . What does that mean? We will need to get the water turned back on and upgrade some wiring to have the Dinner Bell and the Food Pantry run out of Fellowship Hall. Both will need to replace refrigeration, supplies and food inventory. We will need to replace the heating system and add a new hot water heater. We do hope all this can be done over the summer, so that we can make our apple crisp for the Fryeburg Fair. We will be working with Bergeron Technical Services to begin the planning process.

We will need funds and hope the community will see the importance of the church and help us continue our missions and re-open. Donations can be made to our GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-brown-church-flood-recovery> or send checks to the Conway Village Congregational Church PO Box 333 Conway, NH 03818



TUCKERMAN
BREWING

Sunday, June 9th
3:00 to 6:00 PM
BLUE GRITS BLUES BAND
Benefit for
The Brown Church Flood Recovery Fund

66 HOBBS ST. CONWAY NH 03818
BEER@TUCKERMANBREWING.COM
603-447-5400

E V E N T S

Community Yard Sale
Saturday July 13th
9 AM to 3 PM

Save the Date
More Information to follow

**Benefits the Flood Recovery Funds for the
Conway Village Church & Robert Frost School**

Location: Main Street Conway Village between the
Robert Frost School and the Conway Village Church



May News from the Deacon’s Bench

As I prepare to write this piece for 2024, I am rereading prior pieces that I’ve submitted. Funny, as most of what I had planned to send for the newsletter has been written before and is still appropriate.

Changes. They are constant. We should expect them and be flexible with addressing them. Ha ha ha that sounds easy, right?

Not always so, to be sure. Some changes are planned and expected where other changes sneak up on you leaving you unprepared. Revelations –“Behold I make all things new”. So much can be said about “newness”. What this means to me is that God makes a new day, every day. How we deal with this daily “newness” is our own to define and learn from.

By the time this newsletter “goes to press”, our special meeting will have been held and our decisions on how the congregation will move forward will be known. The package sent out by the trustees has a lot of important information included. Many hours were spent obtaining all the data and figures to present many scenarios of what could be possible as well as what might not be attainable. My personal thanks and immense gratitude go out to the trustees, particularly Nancy Divine and Anne Getchell, both of whom have carried many reins for such a long time in an effort to assist us all to understand the monumental tasks at hand that we, as a congregation, need to attend to.

God’s guidance will grace us as we make tough decisions.

Blessings to all,

Louise Saxby

Conway Village Church Diaconate: Co-Chairs: Louise Saxby and Judy Workman, Beth Campbell (Secretary), Jill Reynolds and Charles Monaghan.

Women’s Bible Study

Thursdays 1:00 PM

Fridays

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

9:00 AM

Everyone is welcome to study God’s Word with us. If you are interested in attending either of the Bible Studies please call or email the church for the location of that week’s meeting. Bible studies are currently being held in private homes while the church building is closed.

— local —
OUTREACH
— touching others in our community —

Elevating Outreach

The Outreach Committee met in April. We discussed what we wanted to focus on in 2024. It is hoped that the Food Pantry and Dinner Bell can re-open in early summer. Funds will need to be raised to open the church so they both can start back up.

Paul and Sylvia Weld attended the meeting to give us an update on the Food Pantry. Since the lower level can not be used, the plan is to run the pantry out of Fellowship Hall. They will begin planning a layout for shelving and refrigeration. It is possible that electrical upgrades will be needed, we are waiting for estimate.

Anne has met with Dinner Bell folks to discuss what is needed to re-open. They will need running water, gas hook up and replacement of refrigeration units.

John Hughes recently met with folks from the NH Conference United Church of Christ (After the April Outreach meeting). They talked about helping the church with a “ hands on project “. They felt they would like to involve a missionary group from Connecticut who will be coming the last week of June. This idea could also be shared to local groups. An example is replacing damaged siding on the church.

What will be needed, and is essential, is having someone from the church who has the time and knowledge to act as a foreman, listing materials needed, and oversee the work. We don't know if the church will be open, but if you are interested in helping, let John know.

The Outreach Committee is allocated \$2,000 in the church's operating budget. We would like those funds to be used locally.

If anyone is interested in serving on the Outreach Committee, please let one of us know.

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



Happy Birthday!

May God bless you on your birthday, and always.



Happy Birthday to those celebrating May Birthdays!

Sandra Hatch
Wally Campbell
Ray Behnke
Beth Campbell
Meri Jones
John MacDonald

Steve Graustein
Dana Saxby
Elise Edgerton
Paul Weld
Dick Vierus

Praise, Gratitude & Joy

This is a new column for our newsletter. We hope to highlight praiseworthy, joyful topics in this section. Some of you may recall, we used to announce Joys & Concerns at the start of each worship service. This is along that idea, however we will use the prayer list for the concerns and reserve this section for the Joys!

Welcome Deb Arnold!

I have been attending CVCC since August 13, 2023.

It is such a warm, friendly, God-Loving church!

Your Community Outreach is what originally drew me to come, as well as God's prompting. I thought to myself, "They are the REAL DEAL, doing the work of Jesus"!! So I just want to let you know how much you all mean to me and how you have made me feel so welcome and at home from the very start!

On Sunday April 14, 2024 I became a member, being welcomed into God's Family at CVCC.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to be a part of you all!! The roses given to me for joining were so beautiful, kind and thoughtful! I will always remember how special you made me feel!

God's Blessings, Deborah (Deb) Arnold



Thank you American Legion Post 46 of Conway!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Conway American Legion Post #46 for hosting the Fish Fry on April 19th to benefit our Church. By 4 pm, the facility was bustling with attendees, making parking and seating a scarce commodity. The fish was delicious, and the desserts were both tasty and abundant. As the dinner drew to a close, there was jubilation as it was announced that this was their most successful Fish Fry Fund-raiser to date, with a preliminary count of 225 dinners sold.

Our gratitude extends to the talented bakers within our church community. With just a Wednesday email requesting desserts, they not only filled the dessert table but also provided the most diverse and delicious assortment of treats ever seen at these dinners, according to one regular attendee.

We extend our thanks to all who dedicated their time and effort to make this event possible. At The Brown Church, we understand the immense effort involved in organizing such dinners. The donation jars were put to good use, amassing a total of three hundred and sixty-one dollars.

To everyone who attended, indulged in a scrumptious meal, enjoyed the company of friends from the community, and supported our church in the process, we are truly grateful.

Sunday Worship Services

10:00 AM

Meeting at the Majestic Theater until we are able to return to our church

In person or on zoom

To join us online please go to Zoom.com use this Meeting ID: 832 6656 0783 the Passcode is: 074610

May Worship

May 5th—5th Sunday of Easter - Communion

Scriptures: Psalm 98 Acts 10:44-48 John 15:9-17

Sermon: *“That Love may be Complete”*

May 12th—6th Sunday of Easter - Mother’s Day

Scriptures: Psalm 1 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 John 17:6-19

Sermon: *“Like Trees Planted by Streams of Water”*

May 19th—Pentecost Sunday

Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15,

Sermon: *“Do You have an Advocate?”*

May 26th—Trinity Sunday

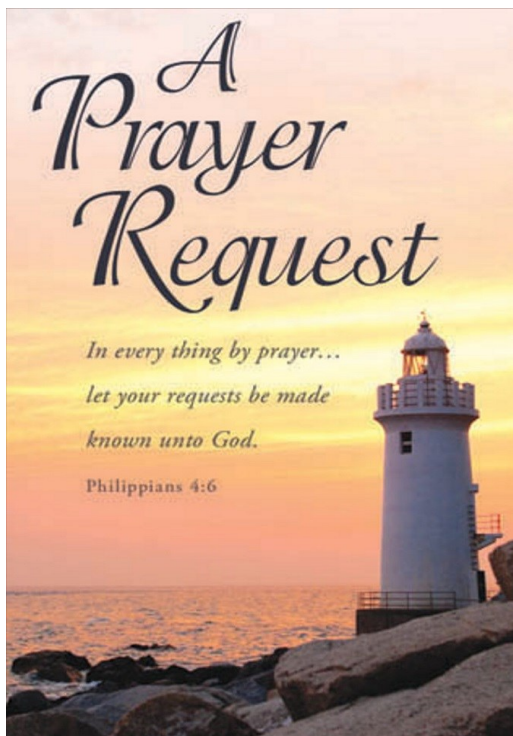
Scriptures: Psalm 29 Isaiah 6:1-8 John 3:1-17

Sermon: *“Here am I; Send Me”*

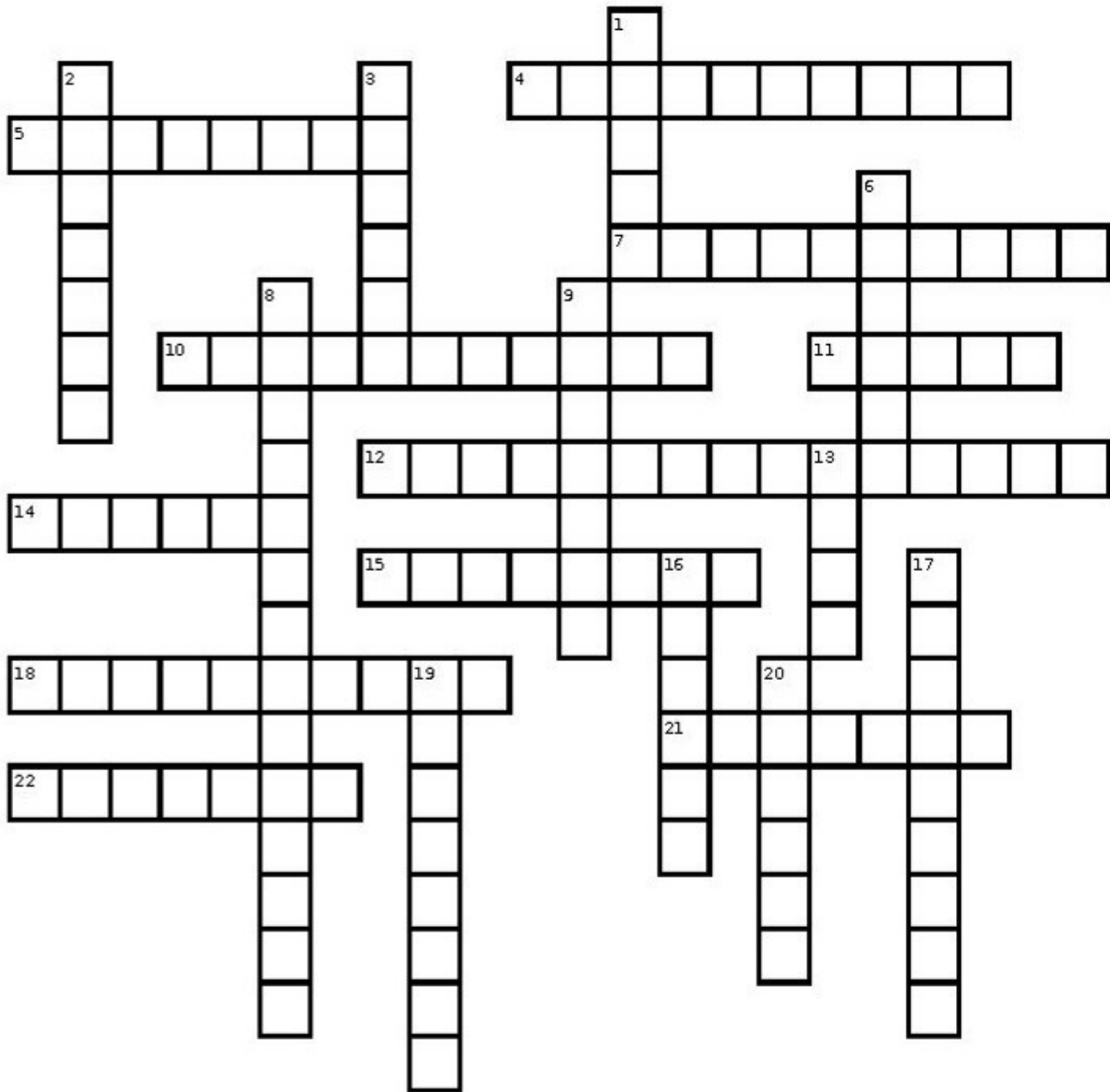
Church Prayer List

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| † Cathy Currier | † Mark Weld |
| † Cynthia Saxby | † Debbie Kelly |
| † Alice Proctor | † Greg Turgeon |
| † Prudy Shackford | † Russ Hunter & Family |
| † Colleen Albert | † Paula Burgess |
| † Elise Keeney Edgerton | † Alexandra Tiresta |
| † John Edgerton | † Bonnie Kimball |
| † Linda Frechette | † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger |
| † Alice Spear | † Suzanne & Eddie |
| † Curt Reynolds | † Corey & Family |
| † Tom Steele | † Charlotte |
| † Carol Baribeau | † Jean Hamilton & Family |
| † Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne | † Melody Bergman |
| † The Conway Village Congregational Church Family & Missions | |

If you would like to add yourself or a loved one to our prayer list please call or email the church at 603-447-3851 or info@thebrownchurch.org. God Bless you.



Conway Village Church May 2024 Crossword Puzzle



Down


1. December 18-19, 2023
2. A Small Municipality
3. Faithful Servant of Christ
6. Admiration
8. Autonomous Christian Church
9. Person Entrusted with Assets
13. Religious Song
16. Our Town
17. Sacred Writings
19. Return to Normal
20. Raise Heart & Mind to God

Across

4. Friendly Association or CVCC Hall
5. Follower of Christ
7. Monday Night at CVCC
10. Our Church
11. Scriptures
12. Current Sunday Worship Location
14. Shepherd
15. Bring Out to the People
18. A Mission of Our Church
21. Adoration
22. Oversight Committee of the Church



Conway Village Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:15pm Diaconate	2 1pm Women's Bible Study	3 9am Men's Bible Study	4
5 10 AM Worship Majestic Theater	6	7 4:30pm Trustees	8 4:30 Council Meeting at Conway Fire	9 1pm Women's Bible Study	10 9am Men's Bible Study	11
12 10 AM Worship Majestic Theater Mother's Day 	13	14	15	16 1pm Women's Bible Study	17 9am Men's Bible Study	18
19 10 AM Worship Majestic Theater	20	21	22	23 1pm Women's Bible Study	24 9am Men's Bible Study	25
26 10 AM Worship Majestic Theater	27 	28	29	30 1pm Women's Bible Study	31 9am Men's Bible Study	