



Conway Village Congregational Church

“The Brown Church”

The Good News

June 2024

Volume 13

Issue 6



Conway Village Congregational Church 132 Main Street, P.O. Box 333 Conway NH 03818
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A Year of Challenges

*“Now faith is the substance
of things hoped for,
the evidence of things
not yet seen.”
Hebrews 11:1*

2024 has been “*A Year of Challenges*”. On Monday, December 18, 2023, when the flood waters breached our church, the destruction was sudden and overwhelming. The chaos that resulted put a halt to our developing programs as well as to our established missions to the greater Mount Washington Valley. The church was always faithful to its commitment to the health and wellbeing of our neighbors and community when our way of life came crashing to a halt. Our church has since been confronted with very real challenges.

The demands we face call for new commitments, new directions, new collaborations. Insurance companies, FEMA, town officials, fire codes, remediation requirements, grant writing, emergency funding, zoning restrictions, building codes, contracting, and engineering, all had to be addressed in a timely and consistent manner. Weekly staff meetings confronted complex problems with determination and competing demands with prioritization. Through it all, our leadership sustained a confident spirit and genuine faith. Our focus is directed to positive outcomes and innovative thinking. The vote taken on April 21st at the *Special Church Meeting* reflects the integrity of our community and is an affirmation of our work over the past 5 months.

We now are to reestablish our missions before we consider returning to worship in our sanctuary. This two-step process demonstrates what our community values most. We envision our mission of feeding those with food insecurity, offering direction to the aimless and lost, and supporting those overwhelmed by crisis as our priority. We will be reopening the top floor of our existing building, creatively using our limited space to reestablish the Dinner Bell, Food Pantry, and our self-help groups. This will demand a clearer understanding of how available space will be used, a flexibility in how different groups collaboratively support each other, and a commitment to rethinking what church is and how it must operate.

We have already seen how the Conway Village community is responding. *The American Legion Post 46* Fish Fry was a great success and yielded solid financial support. *Tuckerman’s Brewery* is dedicating a Sunday, June 9th event to raising restoration funds, while a joint effort with the *Historical Society* and *Robert Frost School* is being planned. Musicians and bands are asking if they can help raise money for our recovery as well.

The faith in our church, and the community’s response to it, is inspiring! **Hebrews 11:1** says, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for*”, meaning people of faith are meant to live with “*confident expectation*”, that inspires them to work for a future reality. We are in a faithful time when people are living through events which will positively reshape their lives and clearly impact the lives of people around them. Our “*Year of Challenges*” continues. Someone recently asked, “*Do you think God is testing you?*” to which I replied, “*I think God is calling us together ... to a new and exciting future!*”

Thank you all for your continuing support, inspiration, and faith,

Rev. John Hughes

June 2024



PO Box 333
132 Main Street, Conway, New
Hampshire 03818
www.thebrownchurch.org

The Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Reverend John G Hughes, II

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Notice Dated: May 22, 2024

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

Special Meeting Scheduled: July 21st, 2024

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, July 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:

1. Building reopening update.
2. Review the 2024 budget.
3. Review Church governance.
4. To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 22nd of May 2024

Melody Bergman,
Administrative Assistant

TRUSTEES TIDINGS

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
Psalm 19:1

Welcome June !

The Trustees continue to meet once a month, but a lot of work is done in between meetings. In May, we met with the Masonic Lodge #87. They are in need of space for their monthly meetings and would like to use the church. They know the current status of the church, and will wait for us to get the work done to re-open.

We thank those who have kept up with their pledges, it helps to keep the bills paid. Our utility bills are down of course and we plan to begin working on 2024-2025 budgets and will add in the anticipated utility expenses once all the systems are up and running and the building is open. We do hope a new heating system will be much more economical. PLEASE save the date, we plan to have another Special Meeting after church on **Sunday, July 21st**. At that time, we will review the proposed budget and bring you up to date on the work needed to re-open.



We all agree that we need to get the Food Pantry and Dinner Bell back up and running. It is unlikely that the old pantry space can be used for anything but storage for now. The temporary plan will be to have the pantry in Fellowship Hall. In order to use the building, the church will need to get an occupancy permit from the town. At this time, we do not know what limitations there may be in using the bottom floor. We are hoping to meet with them, along with Bergeron Technical Services, in the near future.

Nancy and Anne met with a FEMA team for the Recovery Scope Meeting. They had representatives addressing Civil Rights (ADA) , Environmental (oil spill and historical building), Mitigation (doing work beyond just replacing what was there, ex. the heating system) and NH Homeland Security. Kate from Bergeron Technical Services was with us. (lucky to have her there!)

The team's function is to help us through the application process. They are not the same folks who are working with the town regarding Flood Plain zones, re-occupying flooded spaces etc. Kate noted that we will need to meet with town in the near future.

Next steps:

FEMA site inspection week of May 28th

Weekly call in meetings start first week of June.

Bergeron still working on plan to re-open

Nancy, Anne and Shawn Bergeron, will meet with the town to discuss what is needed for an Occupancy Permit. We also need to discuss mitigation to prevent future flooding.

continued on next page

TRUSTEES TIDINGS continued

If you get a chance, take a look at the church siding in the area by the flag pole. Local contractor Jane Roberts took the rotted door out and replaced the siding. Water likely got into the church through that door.

SAVE THE DATES, we need your help.

June 1st– Clean up day. You will see a list of work needed at Sunday service.

June 9th- Tuckerman Brewing Fundraiser for the church. See flyer in newsletter

July 13th- Yard Sale, Bake Sale and Crafts, joint fundraiser with the Historical Society. We will have 3 dates for people to drop off items: June 22, June 29, July 6, 10:00- 12:00. We will need help on those days, along with yard sale setup and take down on the 13th

Stay Cool This June!

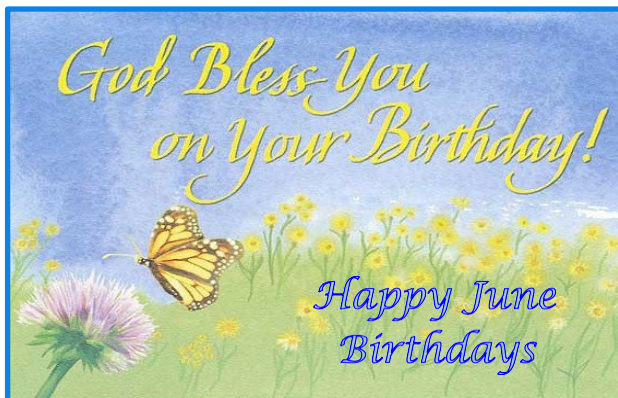
Hannaford bag purchases in the month of June will benefit our Food Pantry! Please help support our mission. Thank you!



Kick off summer with a reusable bag! This **June**, pick up a \$2.50 Fight Hunger Bag at our selected Hannaford to send our organization a \$1 donation.



hannaford.2givelocal.com
Fight Hunger Bag Program



Tom Workman
Rob Leanna
Linda Kirschbaum
Lois Yeaton
Bob Bernhardt

Curt Reynolds
Gloria Aspinall
Jon Saxby
Bruce McLlarky
Jean Hamilton

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Raise a Pint for The Brown Church

June 9th 2 - 7 PM

Pick-a-Prize Auction

Blue Grit Blues Band 3 - 6 PM

Axe Throw Available



\$1.00 per Pint to benefit the Conway Village Church Flood Recovery Fund

66 Hobbs St. Conway NH 03818

beer@tuckermanbrewery.com

603-447-5400

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Community Yard Sale

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

Saturday July 13th
9 AM to 3 PM

Craft Goods & Bake Sale
also for the Brown Church

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



Community Yard Sale

Benefits the Flood Recovery Funds



CVCC Yard Sale Item Donations

All Items Donated should be in very good condition.

Please call the church office 447-3851 to arrange a time to drop off your item donations. Donations will be collected in the downstairs classroom on June 22nd, 29th and July 6th, from 9am - noon.

Please donate only good condition clean, sellable items.

Donation Ideas – Items which sell well:

Furniture
Tools
Sports Equipment
Vintage Dishes & Glassware
Garden Tools

Donation Ideas – Items which sell well cont.:

Handbags
Costume Jewelry
Games & Toys & Puzzles
Books
Camping Gear
Exercise Equipment
Home Décor

Items which should NOT be donated are:

Electronics
Clothing
Appliances
Broken/damaged Items

My grandmother always drank her coffee like this! I thought it was because it was too hot.

Drinking from My Saucer

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed
by John Paul Moore



Our Little Brown Church



Our little Brown Church is now quite a mess,
Mother Nature was cruel but we know we are blessed . . .
To have been spared for so long from a ravishing flood.
To be awakened by the awesome power of the Lord.

In so many ways we really were spared
And the work will continue 'till all is repaired.
It's going to take time—so we all must abide,
So much to be done—God will provide.

A church is not an ordinary place,
It's the House of God where we find peace and grace.
In a “blink of an eye” this was taken away.
When we're brought to our knees, then we must pray!

Who knows why God had this in his plan.
Was it just a reminder to show us he can . . .
Shake us all up to our very core,
Show us life is not always an open door?

One thing is certain—we have many good friends
Who have offered support and their wholehearted blessings,
Our Little Brown Church will soon mend together,
Fullfill it's commitments and be better than ever.

Meanwhile, let's be thankful for our many blessings.
Pay attention and learn from valued life-lessons.
Mary Russo



The month of June:

Warmer weather.

Schools out for the summer.

June 9, 2024 fundraiser at Tuckerman's Brewery

June 16, 2024 Father's Day (each year the third Sunday of June)

June 20, 1903 our "Brown Church" building was built & dedicated

Pentecost often referred to the birthday of the Christian Church

Life is full of challenges. It's through these we learn our most valuable lessons.

The flooding in December 2023 and it's aftermath have certainly been and continue to be challenging. Our community activities have been disrupted. We learned during Covid that we can zoom and remain "connected" during church services & meetings.

We can't "zoom" food for people who need items from the Food Pantry.

We can't "zoom" meals for the Dinner Bell.

We can't replace physically being in the presence of others.

These things require a building. A facility to store food and prepare meals.

The Conway Village community meeting place.

Our building is much more than a church, it's home to all this and more.

The community is stepping forward now that we have a plan for recovery. This road has been and will continue to be very difficult. Many, many thanks to all of those involved.

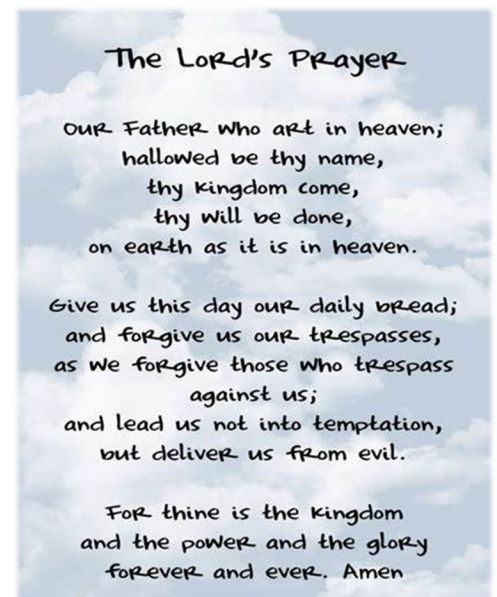
Please join us on June 9 at Tuckerman's Brewery for the next scheduled fundraiser and some much needed fellowship.

As we continue on our journey, may we learn, grow, and remember:

God's promise is no matter what, we are never alone.

When my life presents challenges, I can count on my dad to remind me "it's ALL in GODS hands".

Beth Campbell



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

The Monadnock Congregational Church Welcomes a Settled Pastor



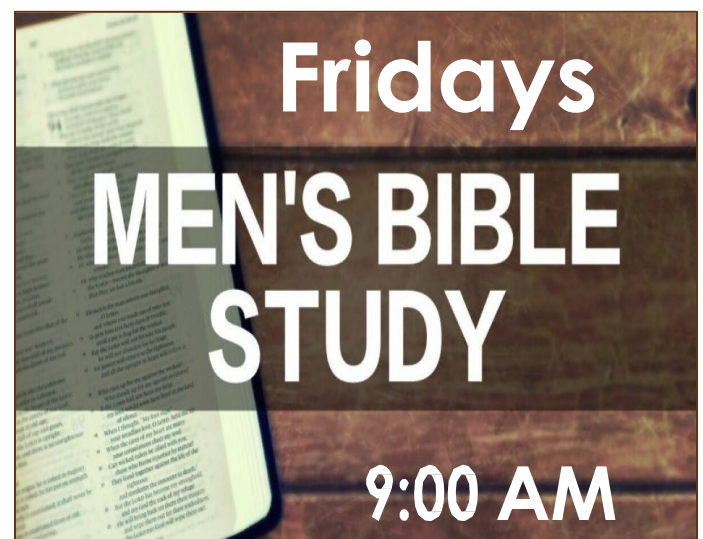
From Left to Right in Picture: Stephanie Lyons, *Minister of Music*, Gerry Tilton, *Church + Ministry Committee*, Bob Spencer, *NE Assoc. Moderator*, Rev. Brian Grover, *Installed as Pastor*, Rev. Pam Spain, *NE Committee on Ministry*, Eric Stuhl, *Moderator Monadnock Cong'l Church*, and Brent Lyons, *Clerk Monadnock Cong'l Church*.

Women's Bible Study 9:00AM

Wisdom's
Daughters
Stories of
Women
around Jesus
Elizabeth
G. Watson

We will take a summer break in July and August and start back in September. Call the church office for time and location information. New to Bible study? We would love to have you join us!

Blessings, Judy Workman



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.



New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

A Just World For All

A Pastoral Letter from your Conference Ministers

April 4, 2024

To all Authorized Ministers and Churches of the New Hampshire Conference:

Even as we celebrate the promise of resurrection joy in this season, we want to acknowledge and speak to what is a tender moment for some in our midst. In the past ten months, we have had two of our active pastors pass into God's eternal care. Last May, **Susan Garafalo**, who served the United Church of Winchester, passed away. At the beginning of Holy Week last week, **Maureen Adams**, who pastored both Third Congregational Church in Alstead and the United Church of Acworth, passed. Both deaths were unexpected. As a matter of fact, both of these faithful servants were preparing liturgy for upcoming worship services earlier in the mornings in which they died. We continue to encourage our New Hampshire Conference covenant community to hold Susan and Maureen's families, friends, and the communities they served in prayer.

But our letter is more than an invitation for prayer. It is a call for sacred care-taking.

Before our further comments, and with all good caution, we want to state clearly that we by no means are trying to imply any causal relation in Maureen and Susan's specific situations. We do not know enough to make any comment about Maureen and Susan's care for themselves. We do know the communities they served loved them dearly and did their very best to affirm and support their ministries.

Yet, we know and want to acknowledge that the demands and stresses of professional ministry are high in this generation. This is true whether one serves in a local church or another ministry setting. If we do not remain vigilantly aware of this reality and seek to counter it with a great depth of care-taking, the costs can run deep. And those costs are felt by many – our Authorized Ministers and those who love them, all the ministry settings being served, and by all who seek to walk together as Christ's Church.

Authorized Ministers, our plea to you this day is to **really** take care of yourselves. Caring for the sacred spark within others requires caring for the sacredness of yourself first. Take your days off and use all your vacation time. If you miss time off, make it up as quickly as possible. Nurture your spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical self regularly. Develop resources of support around yourself whether through a Pastoral Leadership Development Group or through a self-created collegial gathering. Be ready to say "no" when you have nothing left to give. There are times when others will try to convince you that the well-being of the church rests solely on your shoulders. That is a mantle none of us can carry. The only way the church moves forward is if we do this together (and with a whole lot of God's grace).

Leaders in our churches, you have a role in this too. Make sure the appropriate groups in your church (Pastoral Relations or Human Resources Committee) have regular conversations with your pastor about utilizing all their available days off and vacation time. This is necessary for both the congregation's and the pastor's well-being. Set aside some additional funds so that your pastor can engage in spiritual direction or counseling. Set mutual and realistic expectations with your pastor and communicate them with the rest of the congregation so that everyone is investing in the same expectations. Teach your congregation to be flexible when demands on your pastor's time and energies are high. It can be a gift of grace to congregation and pastor alike for there to be occasional Sundays with a lay preacher or a hymn sing. Regularly practice affirmations of all members and be sure to include your pastor. Affirmations can be restorative to the soul. In short, please show the same care to your pastor that they show to all of you.

We know there is a role for us in this too. If there are ways in which we can support this sacred task of care-taking, please let us know. The health of our Authorized Ministers and of our congregations is dear to us.

Easter blessings,

The Reverend Sara Marean, Associate Conference Minister

The Reverend Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister

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

June Worship Schedule

2024

Sunday, June 2nd – *Membership Sunday/Communion*

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-14
2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Sermon: "*We are Treasures in Clay Jars*"

Sunday, June 9th – 3rd of Pentecost

Psalm 138

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Sermon: "*I Believed, so I Spoke*"

Sunday, June 16th – 4th of Pentecost

Psalm 20

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:3
Mark 4:26-34

Sermon: "*We Don't Know How the Kingdom Grows*"

Sunday, June 23rd – 5th Pentecost

Psalm 9:9-20

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-40
Mark 4:35-41

Sermon: "*Why are You Afraid?*"

Sunday, June 30th – 6th of Pentecost

Psalm 130

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:24-34

Sermon: "*I Will Be Well!*"



Prayer Requests

John 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

Cathy Currier
Cynthia Saxby
Prudy Shackford
Alice Proctor
Colleen Albert
Elise Keeney Edgerton
Linda Frechette
Alice Spear
Curt Reynolds

Tom Steele
Carol Baribeau
Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne
Mark Weld
Debbie Kelly
Greg Turgeon
Russ Hunter & Family
Paula Burgess
Teresa Bernhardt

Bonnie Kimball
Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger
Suzanne & Eddie
Corey & Family
Charlotte
Jean Hamilton & Family
Richie Haven
Ritchie Hansen
John Edgerton



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Join us to clean up & prepare for Yard Sale! 8:30 AM
2 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre (No Zoom)	3	4 4:30pm Diaconate 4:30pm Trustees	5 Council 4:30pm Conway Fire Department Conference	6 1pm Women's Bible Study	7 9am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	8
9 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre Sunday, June 9 th 3:00 to 6:00 PM BLUE GRITS BLUES BAND	10	11	12	13 1pm Women's Bible Study	14 9am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	15
16 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre	17	18	19	20 1pm Women's Bible Study Articles Due Today!	21 9am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	22
23 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre	24	25	26 4:30pm Diaconate (July's Meeting)	27 1pm Women's Bible Study	28 9am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	29
30 10 AM Worship Majestic Theatre						