



Conway Village Congregational Church
"The Brown Church"
The Good News

June 2025

Volume 14

Issue 6



Conway Village Congregational Church 132 Main Street, P.O. Box 333 Conway NH 03818
Phone 603-447-3851 Email: Info@thebrownchurch.org Website: www.thebrownchurch.org
Pastor: Rev. John Hughes

A **Celebration of Life** was held for **Mary (McLellan) Chesley** on Saturday, April 26th, 2025. The family brought her "**Certificate of Promotion**" showing that **Mary Elvira McLellan** had successfully finished the Cradle Roll and progressed to the Primary Sunday School on June 13, 1937, listing her birth date as May 1, 1933. An arrangement of flowers on the altar sported a ball of pink yarn (*with knitting needles*) as a symbol of her being manager of the *White Mountain Woolens Store* in North Conway for 25 years, during which time she met Ron Howard the actor, a story she told many times.



Neighbors, friends, and family members, as well as a worker from her assisted living facility, rose to reflect on Mary's life and personality. A Eulogy was offered

based on Mary's favorite psalms and scripture, often used when she received communion in the final years of her life. A special address was offered to her great-granddaughter, Maren, who was in attendance. Mary's passionate life and ferocious love of the Boston Red Sox were dully noted. It was a sharing of our sadness of farewell while joining ourselves in common prayers of devotion. We honored her life, gave thanks to those she loved and for those who loved her. It was an occasion of joy, peace, and gratitude for the Brown Church's oldest and longest living member as we shared in the Good News of Jesus Christ.



"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, your word has been fulfilled; my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people." (Luke 2:29) was offered as the final commendation for Mary's life of service, determination, and dedication.

Rev. John Hughes

June 2025



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

May 22, 2025

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

Please be informed that a Special Meeting of the Membership and friends of the Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at approximately 11:15 am. The meeting will commence following the church service and will be held both in person and via Zoom.

While all are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting, kindly note that voting privileges are reserved for members only. To join the meeting and cast your vote via Zoom, please utilize the regular weekly link provided for the church service.

The purpose of this Special Meeting will be:

- 1) Review Year-to-Date financials and the 2025 budget.
- 2) Flood Recovery and Building repair update.
- 3) Fryeburg Fair Planning.
- 4) To Conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

We look forward to your participation in this important gathering.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 22nd of May 2025

Melody Bergman,
Administrative Assistant

Council Chronicles

May Council Meeting Report

The Conway Village Church Council convened on May 6, 2025, combining Trustees and Council Meetings due to time constraints.

Financial Report:

Duddie reported our current cash flow is healthy, however, it was bolstered by a \$6,000 transfer from our investment account to cover recent payables. The Easter offering raised \$6,278, designated for HVAC Splits in the Fellowship Hall for air conditioning and supplemental heating. We anticipate FEMA reimbursement for 75% of our recent flood repair expenses in the coming months.

Trustees – Building Issues:

- Fellowship Hall experienced heating issues on May 4th due to a faulty circulator pump, promptly replaced under warranty by Gaynor, with a service charge from Eastern.
- Interstate Fire replaced the fire suppression system tank and all fire extinguishers.
- Basement Ace installed new dehumidifiers in the crawl space.
- Delivery of a new refrigerator and freezer for the pantry and Dinner Bell, is scheduled for May 9th, with DW Electric adding electrical outlets and a breaker on May 12th.
- Quotes received for resurfacing kitchen cabinet doors range from \$4,700 to \$5,000. Consideration is being given to DIY painting or possibly engaging Kiwanis for this project.
(Dinner Bell will follow up)
- We plan to rehire last year's lawn mowing service provider. Melody will meet with him.
- John noted we should look into adding a heat exchanger for the kitchen.

Spring Clean-up Projects:

Volunteers are needed for various tasks including garden upkeep, general exterior cleaning, and specific room clean-outs and preparations. Please contact the office to volunteer.

Building Use:

Lifeline requested use of Fellowship Hall all day on September 18th or 23rd, the 23rd conflicts with apple delivery and apple crisp production plans. Melody will reach out to Lifeline to reschedule.

Diaconate/Worship:

- Katherine Rhoda is scheduled to play for worship services on 7/20, 9/28, and 10/19.
- No Zoom service on June 8th due to out-of-town commitments of both Steve G. (conference) and Nancy I. (reunion). Alternatives for worship music are under consideration.
- Support and prayers are being offered by Union Congregational Church, York Beach, Maine, following our flood-related challenges.

Council Chronicles continued on page 8

Outreach - Food Pantry

Anne & I would like to thank all of the volunteers who help in the pantry! There are many tasks necessary to keep the pantry operating smoothly. Mondays are the busiest, picking up food donations from Wal-Mart, Shaws & Lighthouse Credit Union, unloading the food, then sorting and putting it away. Mondays also include preparing the pantry for busy Tuesdays when clients pick up their food. There are also two separate monthly pick ups in the Tamworth area, one from USDA and one from NH Food Bank. Monthly inventories must be completed for reporting as well as to place orders. **This is truly a TEAM effort!**

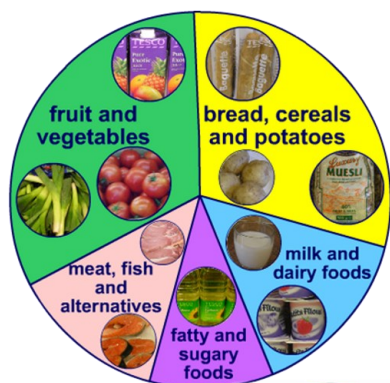
WE  LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU



On a daily basis, clients call in to schedule their appointments. Every week, we hear over and over from them how grateful they are, thanking us, and letting us know how much they appreciate everything we do for them. Many times we are told how much they have missed us. Our volunteer's time and effort changes lives! Thank you for helping us continue our mission!

Donations of all kinds may be made during worship service on Sundays or when the office is open. Call 603-447-3851 to make arrangements. Checks can be mailed to PO Box 333, Conway, NH 03818 Thank you!



Conway Village
Congregational
Church

Food Pantry

By Appointment Only

Tuesdays 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Serving East Conway, Center Conway,
Conway, Eaton, Albany,
Madison & Chatham.
603-447-3851

Call to make an appointment or for more information.

Outreach Committee

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

*Pantry was closed all of 2024 due to major flooding of church.

<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 2025	22	38	1,907	23	4	0	5
February 2025	15	26	1,305	16	4	1	5
March 2025	48	80	4,017	49	6	10	8
April 2025	34	65	3,263	35	12	6	5
May 2025 (excludes May 27)	31	65	3,250	32	16	6	4
Jan - May 2025	150	274	12,028	155	42	22	27
Jan - May 2023 *	180	357	17,922	167	49	43	23

TRUSTEE

It might seem early to be talking about the Fryeburg Fair, but preparations are already underway for this important annual event. The fair is our church's biggest annual fundraising effort, and it takes a great deal of planning and behind-the-scenes work throughout the year to make it all come together.



This time of year, we're busy inventorying supplies, making repairs or improvements to the booth-trailer, placing orders for ingredients, paper products, booth supplies, coordinating with the orchards, and planning the volunteer schedule. Between apple peeling, baking, and working in the booth, we need to fill 315 volunteer shifts — totaling about 1,276 hours. That's a big list, and in recent years it's become more difficult to find enough volunteers to cover everything.

Some of our dedicated members end up working nearly every day during both the apple peeling and the fair, often covering double shifts to help keep things running smoothly. If you've volunteered before, thank you! If you're planning to help again this year, we encourage you to invite a friend or two to join — every extra set of hands makes a big difference.

We typically peel 80 bushels of apples to make over 700 pans of apple crisp. Apple peeling will begin on Tuesday, September 23rd, with two shifts each day (morning: 8:30 AM–Noon and evening: 4:30–7:00 PM), continuing daily — except Sunday — through Thursday, October 2nd.



This year, the Fryeburg Fair opens a day earlier, beginning Saturday, September 27th, and running through Sunday, October 5th. The fair requires all booths to be open from 7 AM to 9 PM daily. Carl will once again faithfully handle the early morning restocking run and work the 7–11 AM shift solo. The remaining day is covered in two shifts: 11 AM–4 PM and 4 PM–9 PM (often wrapping up closer to 9:30 PM with cleaning and closing).

Sign-up sheets — both online and in print — will be available soon. Please consider how you might be able to help. With everyone pitching in, we're looking forward to another successful fair season!

Nancy Irving
Trustee

Trustee Board

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

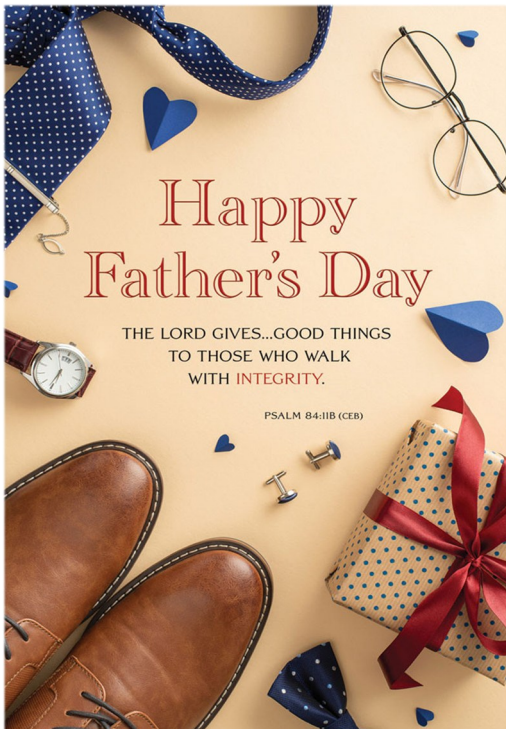
Theological Evaluation
of
C.S. Lewis'
The Four Loves

A special program examining the theology of C.S. Lewis and his book, "**The Four Loves**" was held on Friday mornings in March and April. The program began with a review of his personal and professional life.

C.S. Lewis was drafted for two World Wars, one as a soldier in the trenches and one as an author to write talks for people hunkered down in "***the Tubes***" (subways of London) as German bombs fell overhead. His first tour of service led to him becoming an atheist; he later converted to the Christian faith becoming an Anglo-Catholic.

C.S. Lewis was also famous for writing mythological treatments for children on war, heroism, faith, and endurance, through the books known as "**The Chronicles of Narnia**". C.S. Lewis married a divorced Jewish woman, Joy Davidman, caring for her through the last stages of cancer. He later wrote a book, "**A Grief Observed**" which became a standard for understanding intense grief.

Our study examined Lewis' framework of the differences between "***likes***" and "***loves***", Affectionate Love (***storge*** in Greek), Friendship Love (***philia*** in Greek), Erotic Love (***eros*** in Greek) and finally Charity (***agape*** in Greek). The evaluation showed people "loved the program" (***excuse the pun!***) and asked we consider another study in theology this Fall. The book was not an "easy read" but was deeply appreciated.



The eight men who participated in the class requested that we pick a theologian from America for our next study, as the literary references Lewis used, while common to the English culture, were difficult to follow. Our evaluation showed that there was ample time and opportunity for everyone to share their points of view, ask for clarification of the readings, and to have their questions heard and addressed. The Men's Bible Study affirmed our 8 a.m. meeting time.

I want to thank the Church for purchasing the books used in the study, for those who provided fruits and pastries, and for the fresh coffee served. It was impressive how seriously the group took to the study and how faithfully they attended.

Rev. John Hughes

June 2025



Homecoming Dinner April 11, 2025

It was so wonderful to share a meal with so many familiar faces! Kudos to the chefs! Thank you to all for supporting the Conway Village Church!



Photos taken by Lisa Dufault. Thank you Lisa!

Deacons

The Power of Prayer

Why do people pray? People pray when they are happy, they pray when they are sad. They pray when they are in need or to give thanks when they receive good news or get something else they prayed for. They pray for themselves as well as for others. The most important thing to remember about God is that He hears and answers all your prayers. Be advised that God is not always on the same time table, as you may not get the answer you want, but, you do get the answer you need.

I leave you with these words of assurance ~

The same everlasting Father will watch over you today and every day. He will either guard you from hardship or give you the strength to bare it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

Boz (Charles) Boswell
Deacon



Fundraising:

Council Chronicles continued from page 3

- Consideration given to organizing a Walk-a-thon, based on successful models at other churches, as suggested by a congregant.
- Proposal to collaborate with the Legion for another Fish Fry benefit.
- Exploration of benefits and dine-to-donate events with Tuckermans, and possibly other local establishments that offer these charitable benefits.
- July 4th event participation was raised again. Past experiences with July 4th festivities indicate challenges in profitability and volunteer availability.
- Boz mentioned potential fundraising opportunities through ski club golf tournaments and events, he will check on this over Memorial Day weekend.

Upcoming Events:

- Proposed date for the Christmas Fair and Tree Lighting Event: December 6th. Coordination with the Masons for a possible breakfast and Santa's presence.

Vacation Schedule:

- John's vacation: July 24th to August 12th. Coverage plans for worship services discussed.
- Melody requested vacation time: August 5th to 25th. We may seek volunteer office coverage to keep up with phone and email communications.

For further details or to volunteer for clean-up projects, please contact the church office.

PRAYER REQUEST

We are here to lift you up in prayer.

† Cathy Currier
 † Colleen Albert
 † Elise Keeney & John Edgerton
 † Linda Frechette
 † Alice Spear

† Nancy Keyes
 † Carol Baribeau
 † Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne
 † Mark & Caroline Weld
 † Eileen Redmond
 † Debbie Kelly
 † Greg Turgeon
 † Tom Steele
 † Paula Burgess
 † Teresa Bernhardt
 † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger
 † Suzanne & Eddie

† Misty
 † Charlotte
 † Margaret Marshall
 † John & Kathy P.
 † Cynthia Saxby
 † Family of Joan Mathurin
 † Family of Prudy Shackford
 † Family of Mary Chesley
 † Sky Yeaton
 † Kathy Monahan
 † Lewis Busell & Family



**Fresh
Homestyle Meal**



Join us for a free community dinner!

Everyone Is Welcome!!

Mondays, 5-6 pm

Take Out Only!

Call office for
menu.
603-447-3851



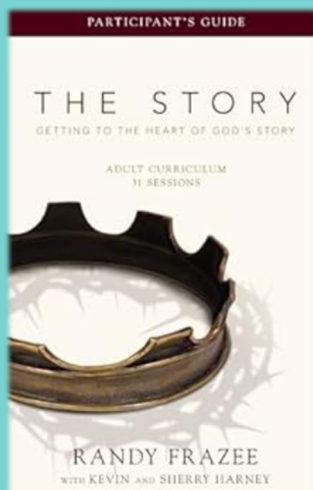
Thursdays, 1:00 pm
 BIBLE
Women's
 STUDY

In June the women's bible study is starting a survey review of the old testament beginning with Genesis. This discussion is included with studying the scriptures and we would love to have you join us. The study is based on The Story, which is the bible, as one continuing story of God and his people.

Please join us anytime you can.
 We have a space just for you!

Everyone is Welcome!

Judy Workman, Women's Bible Study Facilitator



June

Happy Birthday



Tom Workman	Curt Reynolds
Rob Leanna	Gloria Aspinall
Linda Kirschbaum	Jon Saxby
Lois Yeaton	Bruce McLarky
Bob Bernhardt	Jean Hamilton

Please call the office if you would like your name added to the birthday list.

**Men's
Bible Study**

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

Fridays

8 am

Men's Bible Study meets in the conference Room.
 Reviewing weekly lectionary readings for worship.
 All are welcome. John <'>><<<

June 2025 Worship Schedule

Believe on the
Lord Jesus
Christ,
and you will
be saved.

Acts 16:31 (The Bible)



We are open for Worship Services in Fellowship Hall!
Service 10:00 AM
Please join us for Coffee Fellowship following worship service!

Sunday, June 1st – Communion

Psalm 27

Acts 16:9-15

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Meditation: “*Guided by a Star*”

Sunday, June 8th – Pentecost

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Genesis 11:1-9

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Sermon: “*The Clarity of God*”

Sunday, June 15th – Father’s Day

Psalm 8

Curt Reynolds, Guest Preacher

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Sermon: *TBA*

Sunday, June 22nd

Psalm 42/43

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Luke 8:26-39

Sermon: “*What’s Happening Here?*”

Sunday, June 29th

Psalm 16

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sermon: “*Why Cast the Mantle?*”

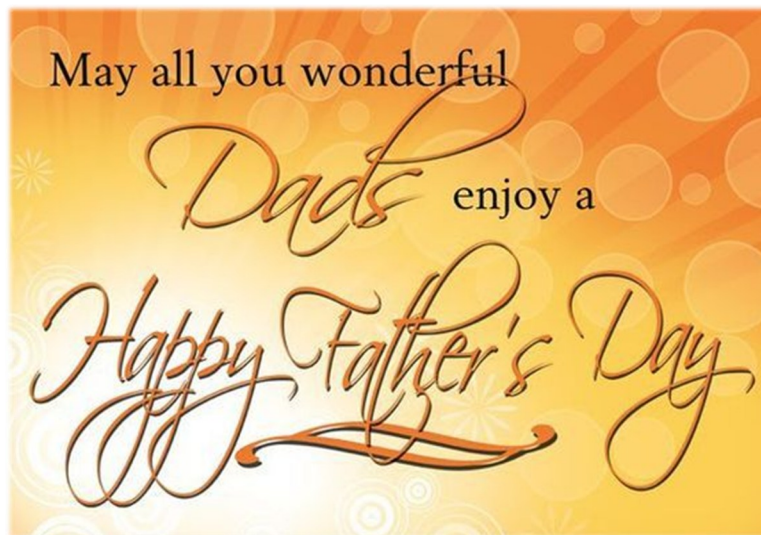
Sunday Worship via Zoom

Meeting ID: **876 2425 7300** - Password: **589150**

To access Zoom meeting by Phone Call **1 646 558 8656** (for audio only)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship Communion Sunday	2 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	3 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 4:30pm Trustees	4 5:30 Diaconate	5 1pm Women's Bible Study	6 8 am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	7
8 10 AM Worship (No Zoom) 	9 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	10 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	11 4:30pm Council	12 1pm Women's Bible Study	13 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	14 
15 10 AM Worship Pulpit Supply Curt Renyolds 	16 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	17 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	18	19 1pm Women's Bible Study	20 8am Men's Bible Study Articles Due Newsletter  <u>Office Closed</u>	21
22 10 AM Worship	23 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	24 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	25	26 1pm Women's Bible Study	27 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	28
29 10 AM Worship	30 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	<div> Conway Village Congregational Church Mission Statement <i>"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."</i> </div>				



To obtain Sunday Worship Service
Zoom Meeting information email
cvccwebteam@gmail.com

Summer Office Hours
Begin May 1st
Monday thru Wednesday
8am - 4pm
Thursday
8am - 12:30pm

