



Conway Village Congregational Church

"The Brown Church"

The Good News

July 2025

Volume 14

Issue 7



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

We Can Get There from Here!

People will remember the old joke when someone stops by the side of the road to ask a local how to get to a certain location, the response is, ***"You Can't Get There from Here!"*** (The answer is often given with an exaggerated local accent.)

The follow up is the person seeking directions then says, ***"Are you daft?"*** to which the local responds, ***"I may be daft, but I'm not lost!"***

Recently, someone from the community asked, ***"How's it going?"***, inquiring where our church is in our flood recovery. After some reflection my response was,

***"We put one foot in front of the other
We keep moving forward
We are making progress."***

"Putting one foot in front of the other" is an idiom meaning to take small steps to reach a final goal - - It seems like slow progression - - yet progress it is.

Our upcoming Special Meeting is to vote on contracting to have new waterproof siding for our church. Many were looking forward to reopening our church sanctuary only to have this process seemingly sidelined to repair the outside of the church. It can, at times, appear we are taking a step back from the progress we are hoping to make. Protecting our outside structure from future water damage is an important step forward, even if it is not the step people were hoping to take. It is another small step to reaching our goal, a new, fully renovated worship space.

While progress seems slow, we need to reassure ourselves,

***"We Can Get There from Here!"
We are not lost - - our vision remains clear."***

We have much for which to be thankful as we continue to be blessed by the generosity of our surrounding community as well as by our faithful membership. Our missions, Dinner Bell and the Church Pantry, are open and support those who need help; we continue to support those who need spiritual direction for their lives. As we strive to fully restore our faith community, we thank everyone for their financial support as well as the support given through continuing inquiries, hopes, and prayers.

Rev John Hughes

July 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

June Council Meeting Report

Financial Update:

Total deposits from May 12 to June 8 amounted to \$10,396.83. So far this year, \$11,000 has been drawn from the endowment to support operations.

Due to the ongoing financial strain of flood recovery, the council voted unanimously not to pay UCC NH Conference dues this year. John will send a letter of thanks for past support and explain our current priorities. The council plans to revisit this decision next year.

Fair Preparations:

Fair planning is moving forward. Carl and Beth are conducting supplies inventories to provide Melody with the list of what is needed to begin ordering. Carl will provide trailer repair quotes at the next Trustees meeting. Anne will coordinate the orders of the dry goods with Ella and Beth. The online volunteer signup form is ready and will be printed for the July all-church meeting. Key volunteer roles to be filled include baking teams, apple peeler/corer operators, and shift leaders for the fair booth.

Scheduled Vacations:

- John will be on vacation from July 24 to August 12.
- Melody will be on vacation August 5–25.

Worship & Diaconate Updates:

Last Sunday's service featured live music by Jill R. and Dick V., with congregational singing from hymnals—a well-received change.

Pulpit coverage during John's vacation is scheduled as follows:

- July 27 – Carl Vitters
- August 3 – Charles Monaghan
- August 10 – Carl Vitters

The Diaconate cleaned out the grooms room—thank you to Beth, Charles, and Boz for hauling items away.

A reminder was issued that the Deacon of the Week should arrive by 9 AM to help with setup and stay after worship to assist with coffee hour cleanup.

FEMA & Building Projects Update:

FEMA is expected to reimburse \$202,443 (75%) of our eligible flood repair costs to date. Additional FEMA funds will be available for sanctuary heating and carpet replacement once completed.

Three building projects:

1. **Fellowship Hall A/C** – Awaiting a quote from BTS. \$6,278 has been raised via the Easter offering.
2. **Sanctuary Repairs** – Includes asbestos removal, floor refinishing, insulation, electrical, HVAC, AV upgrades, and more.
3. **Church Exterior Siding** – Plans include removing the existing siding, making necessary repairs, wrapping the building, and installing new vinyl shake shingles. The lowest quote from a reputable local contractor (NH Aluminum) is \$212,000.

(continued on next page)

Council Chronicles (continued)

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- **Sept 11** – Tuckerman's Trivia Night
- **Sept 28 – Oct 5** – Fryeburg Fair
- **Oct 17** – Fish Fry at American Legion Post 46
- **Dec 6** – Christmas Fair ~ looking for new ideas for this year's fair (& tree lighting-carol sing)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Trustees – July 1 at 4:30 PM
- Diaconate – July 9 (AM time TBD)
- Council – July 9 at 4:30 PM
- **Special Church Meeting** – July 13 following worship

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Irving, Trustee

Zeffy: A New, Fee-Free Way to Donate Online

We're improving how we accept online donations by switching from PayPal to Zeffy, a platform designed specifically for nonprofit organizations. The biggest benefit? Zeffy charges no transaction or credit card processing fees, which means the church receives 100% of every donation — every dollar you give goes directly to supporting our church and missions.

We currently have two donation options available, one for our daily work, one for the building's repairs and future:

1. **Donate to Conway Village Church** – Supports our **general operating fund**, which covers essential day-to-day needs like worship resources, staff salaries, utilities, and keeping the building open for worship, missions, and the many community groups we host.
2. **Renew the Brown Church Campaign** – Contributes to our **building fund**, which helps with flood recovery, siding replacement, and sanctuary repairs and renovations.

What to Expect When You Donate through Zeffy:

- You can choose from preset donation amounts or enter any amount you wish.
- You'll have the option to make your gift a recurring monthly donation, helping us plan and sustain our ministries.

You'll receive a donation acknowledgement letter via email for your tax records.

In order to offer this fee-free service, Zeffy will ask if you'd like to leave a tip to help cover their operating costs. This tip is completely optional — you can enter "\$0" or adjust the amount as you see fit. It's entirely up to you.

We're grateful for your ongoing generosity and support. Switching to Zeffy ensures more of your gift goes where it's needed most — into the heart of our church and its missions.

Outreach - Food Pantry

It's been challenging getting our pantry open again. And **WE did it!!!**

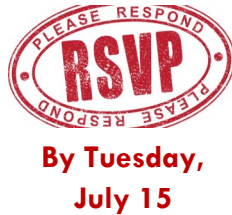
Everyone worked together and our numbers are almost back to where they were.

To show our appreciation of all the hard work and dedication our volunteers have given to the pantry, we will be hosting an "Appreciation Luncheon" on Tuesday, July 22 at noon. If you have volunteered in any way for our food pantry, please join us so we can celebrate our accomplishments together!!

Thank you for all you do!!

Anne Getchell & Melody Bergman
Pantry Coordinators

Save the date!



**Food Pantry
Volunteer
Appreciation
Lunch**
Tuesday, 7/22
12 pm

We are seeking donations of all kinds for our pantry. Donations may be made Sundays during worship service or when the office is open. Call 603-447-3851 to make arrangements to drop off donations.



Checks can be mailed to
PO Box 333,
Conway, NH 03818

Thank you for supporting
our mission!!!



**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.

SWEETEN Your Summer

Support our pantry!
Purchase your reusable today! Thank you!

This July, make a refreshing impact!
When you buy this reusable \$2.50
Fight Hunger Bag at our selected
Hannaford store, \$1 will be donated
to our organization.

hannaford.givelocal.com
Fight Hunger Bag Program

Outreach Committee

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

<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-June 2025 Excludes June 30th	179	327	16,438	184	53	31	29
January-June 2023	206	408	22,512	194	53	48	27

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

Special Meeting

Trustee's Tidings

We encourage all members and friends of the church to attend our semi-annual Special Meeting on July 13th after worship, where we'll provide important updates. Join us to stay informed about significant church matters. If you have questions beforehand that you would like us to address at the meeting, please email Melody at info@thebrownchurch.org or call 603-447-3851.

During our recent Trustees meeting on June 3rd, we carefully reviewed our cash management report. We assessed upcoming bills against expected deposits for the next 30 days. So far in 2025, we've drawn \$11,000 from our investment account to cover expenses.

Flood Recovery Update

We've completed and submitted the necessary flood recovery work, which FEMA has approved. We anticipate receiving a \$202,443 reimbursement, covering 75% of our expenses. Additional FEMA support is expected for the HVAC and carpet replacement in the sanctuary.

Building Repairs Progress: We're currently focused on three main projects:

1. **Fellowship Hall HVAC:** Thanks to a special collection on Easter, we've raised \$6,278 towards installing HVAC systems in Fellowship Hall. Bergeron Technical Services (BTS) is preparing an estimate for this essential upgrade.

2. **Siding Replacement:** We received a request from our insurance company last December, that we address the rotted siding and underlayment. Estimated costs for necessary repairs and full siding replacement are approximately \$212,000. We're meeting with the local contractor soon to discuss further.

3. **Sanctuary Renovation:** The sanctuary project includes asbestos removal, wall reconstruction, window replacement, new sheetrock, altar area construction, floor refinishing, new carpet and HVAC upgrades.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

• **Fryeburg Fair Planning:** We're already preparing inventory lists for baking and booth supplies, and starting purchases early to ensure everything is available and ready on time. Volunteer lists, including shift leaders, will soon be available online and in print. Apple processing and baking will begin on September 23rd. This year's fair will open on Saturday, September 27th, running for nine days until October 5th.

• **Fundraising Events:** Mark your calendars for upcoming events:

• **Tuckerman Brewery Trivia Night Fundraiser:** September 11th. Join us for a fun evening; Trivia Night ~ Trivia participation is encouraged but not required.

• **Fryeburg Fair:** September 27th to October 5th Booth shifts daily 11am to 4 pm and 4 pm to 9 pm.

• **American Legion Fish Fry:** October 17th. Volunteers needed for baking desserts and raffle management.

• **Holiday Fair:** December 6th. Save the date for this festive event!



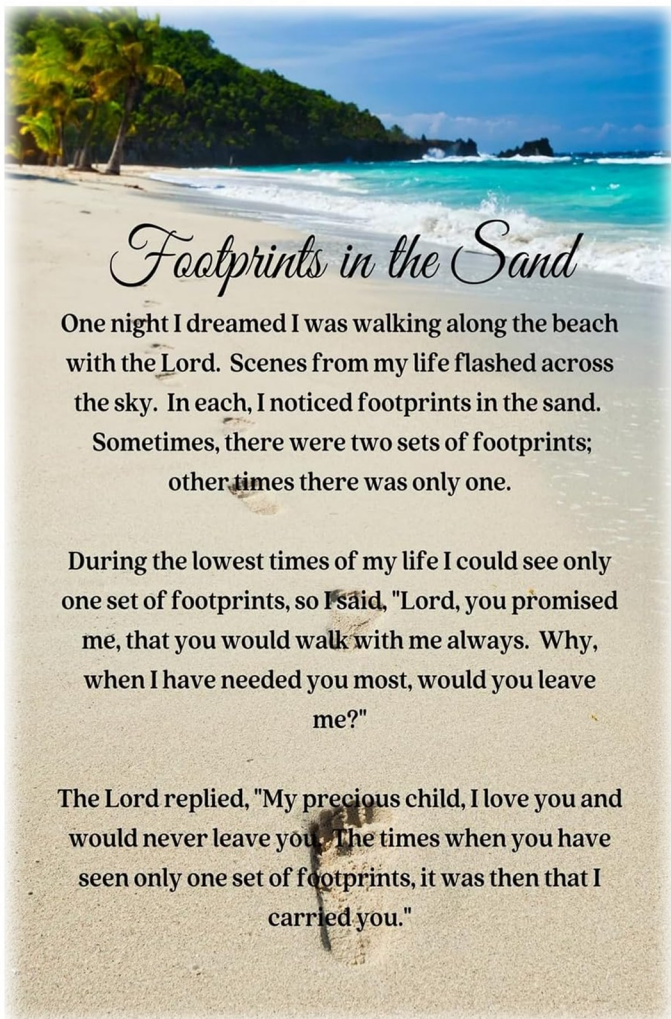
Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports our church community. Your time and dedication make all the difference.

Trustee Board

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

Deacons



Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each, I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes, there were two sets of footprints;
other times there was only one.

During the lowest times of my life I could see only one set of footprints, so I said, "Lord, you promised me, that you would walk with me always. Why, when I have needed you most, would you leave me?"

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

As I try to wrap my head around all the challenges we have faced or may be facing: illness, money, political differences, loss, fear etc. it can be daunting. Some of these changes may have progressed slowly and some may have caught us completely off guard. We must remember that God has assured us that he will not give us more than we can bear. These are the times when our faith in God will carry us through.

May the month of July bring us all the hope and strength we need.

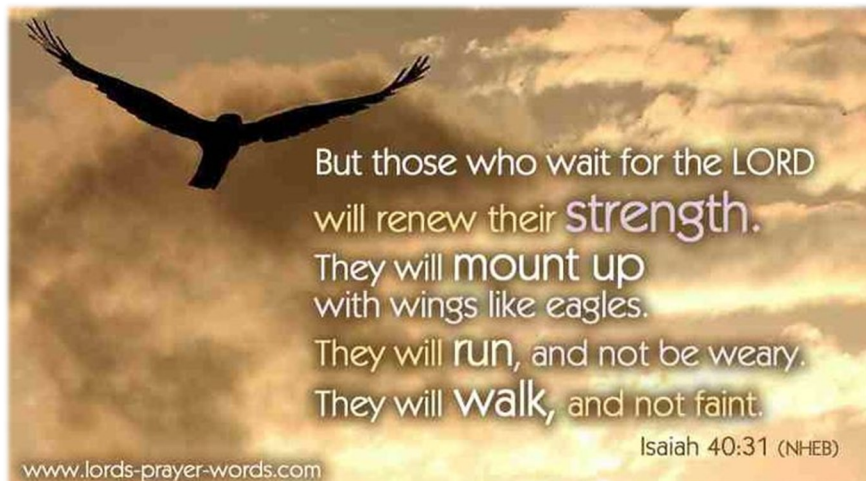
Beth Cambell

Your Deacons,
Judy Workman, Beth Cambell, Jill Reynolds,
Charles Monaghan and Charles (Boz) Boswell

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."



But those who wait for the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will mount up
with wings like eagles.
They will run, and not be weary.
They will walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NHEB)

www.lords-prayer-words.com

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
† Sky Yeaton
† Kathy Monahan
† Lewis Busell & Family



Fresh Homestyle Meal








Free Community Dinner



Join us for a free community dinner!
Everyone Is Welcome!!
Mondays, 5-6 pm
Take Out Only!

Call office for menu.
603-447-3851



 **Josh Wiggin**
 **Leah Twombly**
 **Sam Getchell**
 **Audrey Young**

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

Thursdays, 1:00 pm

BIBLE

Women's

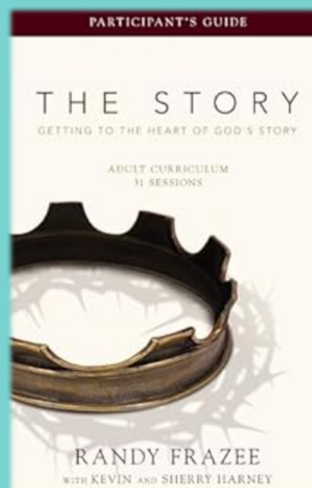
STUDY


In June the women's bible study started 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





Men's Bible Study

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

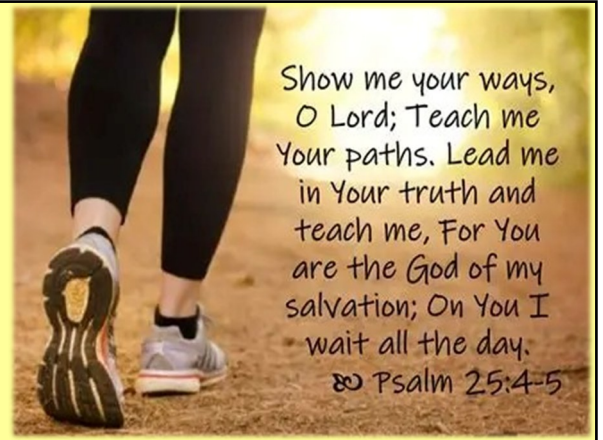
Fridays 8 am

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

July 2025

Worship

Schedule



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

Sunday, July 6th – Communion

Psalm 30

2 Kings 5:1-14

Luke 10:1-11,16-20

Sermon: “Focusing our Attention”

Sunday, July 13th

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: “Keeping the Faith in a Faithless Age”

Sunday, July 20th

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Sermon: “An Anemic Response”

Sunday, July 27th – Carl Vitters preaching

Psalm

TBA

Scriptures: TBA

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
To join Sunday's Worship Service via Zoom Zoom Meeting information email cvcwebteam@gmail.com		1 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 4:30pm Trustees	2	3 1pm Women's Bible Study	4 Office Closed	5
6 10 AM Worship	7 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	8 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	9 9:30 am Diaconate 4:30pm Council	10 1pm Women's Bible Study	11 8am Men's Bible Study Office Closed	12
13 10 AM Worship Following Worship Service	14 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	15 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	16	17 1pm Women's Bible Study	18 8am Men's Bible Study Office Closed	19
20 10 AM Worship Special Guest Musician Katherine Rhoda	21 Articles Due 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	22 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	23	24 1pm Women's Bible Study	25 8am Men's Bible Study Office Closed	26
27 10 AM Worship Pulpit Supply Carl Vitters	28 5-6 pm Dinner Bell	29 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	30	31 1pm Women's Bible Study	Summer Office Hours Begin May 1st 8am - 4pm Monday thru Wednesday Thursdays 8am -12:30pm 	