



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

November 2025

Volume 14

Issue 11



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

16th Annual



Alice and Dick Vierus

Recognized as Volunteers



*Alice & Richard
Vierus*

On Sunday, October 19th, **Alice and Dick Vierus**, were recognized for their years of dedication to our community. They have given 20 years of being "**pillars of the Gibson Center**" as well as founding the Madison Congregate Meals Site at which they hosted, served meals, and offered social support. Alice has served the Girl Scouts of America, the 4H Club, and been a member of the Church Ladies Group, while Dick served as an Indian Guide, sang in Church Choirs, served on Music Committees, Deacon Boards, and served as a Search Committee member for the Conway Village Congregational Church. Both Alice and Dick have taught Sunday School, been leaders of Youth Ministry, and supported Kyros Prison Ministries. Dick, known as "**Mr. Sing-Along**," continues to offer chapel services at the Mountain View Community Nursing Facility in Ossipee, NH, where he leads the singing for worship while Alice backs him up with her harmonization along with the other worshippers.



Church Members, Alice and Dick Vierus, honored with other volunteers at the 16th Annual Valley Promotions Volunteer Awards.



**Mount Washington Valley Non-Profits
Volunteers of the Year Honorees**

Christmas Fair

Trees, Raffle Prizes, and Baked Goods Needed

In Preparation for Our Christmas Fair & Tree Lighting
Saturday, December 6th

Save
the date!

Preparations are underway for our **Christmas Fair and Tree Lighting Event** on **Saturday, December 6th**, and we're asking for your help to make it a joyful community celebration!

Our **first priority** is finding **Christmas trees** for the front of the church. These trees will be the centerpiece of our **Tree Lighting and Caroling** and play an important role in creating the festive atmosphere for the whole event. We are looking for **one large tree (10–12 ft)** — large enough to stand out in the village but still manageable to decorate — and **two regular-sized trees**. We hope to have them **by Thanksgiving** so they can be set up and prepared ahead of the event.

If you or someone you know could **donate a tree**, **provide one at a discount**, or **contribute toward the cost of the trees**, we would be so grateful! Please reach out to the church office if you can help.



We're also planning a **Pick-a-Prize Auction**, which is always a favorite — but it depends on your generosity! We're seeking **donated prizes, gift certificates, and gift baskets** that will appeal to a variety of interests.

And of course, our **Bake Sale** will need plenty of **homemade treats**, along with **volunteers** to help with **set-up the day before** and to **lend a hand during the event**.



Your participation — whether through a donation, a tree, some baked goods, or a few hours of your time — will help us create a warm, welcoming celebration that reflects the **hope, joy, and love** of the Advent and Christmas season.

We hope you'll **join us for this special event** as we **ring in the season together**, share in the **joy of community**, and **support the ongoing work of our church**.

If you can help in any way, please contact the church office.

2025 Christmas Fair Committee - Beth, Jill and Nancy



Saturday Dec 6th
Conway Village Church
Christmas Fair

Fair 10 AM - 4 PM Caroling & Tree Lighting 4:30 PM

Join us for our Holiday Fair featuring
Pick-a-Prize Raffle, Bake Sale, Crafts, Christmas Greens & more
Lunch served 11 am to 1 pm

4:15 - Raffle drawings
4:30 - Tree Lighting, Caroling & Hot Cocoa



FMI: 603-447-3851 Info@thebrownchurch.org Facebook: TheBrownChurchConwayNH

Save the Date

Moderator's Moment

We are now into the fall of the year, even though temperatures sometimes feel more like summer. The nice weather we had all summer was a treat, but at the expense of water levels in the rivers and wells. The Fryeburg Fair was no exception. Sunny, warm to hot every day. Even with an extra day this year the fair did not produce a great year. Sales were down as well as income. We had our share of challenges with the booth this year.

A section of the sub-floor was found to be rotten and had to be replaced. A new vinyl plank floor was installed. The metal legged stand that the oven rests on broke and nearly caused the oven to fall to the floor. New cabinets had to be built for the booth, along with all new piping of water lines. Once the fair started, we had one thing after another each day. Hot water heater didn't work the first day but then decided to work. The cash register lost its battery power and then had a spaz attack and decided to print out a 5-year journal of every transaction for the past five years. The freezer somewhat died but made it through the fair. The oven power button died, but I was able to keep it running. One of the roof mounts, supporting the apple crisp sign's super structure, broke causing the trailer to flood just before the fair.



Customers who tell us they come for our crisp every year!

All in all, we managed to get over all the hurdles. Thanks to everyone who helped with the fair, from peeling apples, to preparing the crisp, selling the crisp at the booth, the set-up and tearing down of the booth, and cleaning up and ordering. It takes a lot of work to participate in the fair, and gratefully, we raised just over \$30,000.00.

Work on the church continues, the new carpet and vinyl flooring will be installed on the stairs and hallway at the end of October. The parsonage has a new driveway and thanks to your generous response to the trustee's parsonage appeal we raised more than the driveway cost. The extra will most likely go to other needs at the parsonage.

The heat for the sanctuary is being worked out, and estimates should be available soon. The new siding for the entire church is planned for next spring.

With fall present, it is that time of the year for our annual stewardship drive. This is an important process, as this determines how much of our planned budget can be supported and what might need to be raised to balance the budget. As that time of giving approaches, it is essential for you to assess what you are capable of giving to support the yearly workings of the church. There are still hurdles in our path and it will take the continued work and support of all our members and the community that we serve to be able to clear those hurdles and make it to the finish line.

Sincerely yours, Carl F. Vitters - Moderator

Conway Village Church Pans of Apple Crisp for sale

Thank you for your interest in purchasing a pan of Apple Crisp from the Conway Village Church (The Brown Church). Your purchase helps support our operational costs, allowing us to continue the programs and services that benefit our neighbors and the wider community.

To order and arrange a pick-up time, please call or email the church office:

603-447-3851

info@thebrownchurch.org

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Payments:

Payments may be made at time of pick-up in person by cash or check.

Payments may also be made by Credit Card, ApplePay or GooglePay by clicking the following link or scanning the QR Code below.

Please note: If paid by credit card you may be asked to show your receipt when you pick up your pan(s) of crisp.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/apple-crisp-pan-sales>



Conway Village Church
The Brown Church
132 Main St Conway, NH 03818 603-447-3851

Apple Crisp

Our Apple Crisp is a great holiday or any day dessert.

**Purchase Pan(s) of Apple Crisp
(13" x 18") \$40 per pan
Serves 10-12**

To order:
Call or email the church to purchase
and arrange a pick-up time
603-447-3851
info@thebrownchurch.org

Your purchase supports our local community outreach programs





Judy Workman

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

Fridays 8 am

MUSES FROM A MYSTIC©

**Call office for menu.
603-447-3851**

Outreach - Food Pantry

Thanksgiving Dinner preparations for our clients are well under way. We have been told by the NH Food Bank we will receive a total of ten (10) \$20 gift cards to be given to our clients in lieu of turkeys, for their Thanksgiving meals. This is approximately 75% less than what we have received in the past!

In addition, in just one morning's time, we received calls from 6 new clients hoping to get food! As you can see from the chart below, October's numbers have increased significantly from previous months. Due to the recent loss of SNAP benefits, we anticipate receiving many more requests from folks who have never been to our pantry.

We would greatly appreciate any donations you can make to help us provide a pleasant holiday for our clients and their families, as well as to help feed them on a day to day basis. We appreciate all monetary donations as well. They are much needed this time of year and now, with the federal cuts will be needed for some time to come! Food donations may be dropped off when the church is open on Sunday mornings or during regular office hours, 8am-4pm Monday ~ Thursday. Please do not leave food outside. If you wish to schedule drop-offs, please call 603-447-3851. Checks can be mailed to PO Box 333, Conway, NH 03818. Credit card donations can be made through our website, [go to our home-page and scroll to the bottom](#). Thank you for supporting our mission!!!

Anne Getchell & Melody Bergman
Pantry Coordinators

Thanksgiving donations
needed by November 17th.

Volunteers needed to give out

Thanksgiving Dinners !! Monday, November 24th - 11:30am- 2pm
Please contact Melody in the office if you would like to help!

Outreach Committee

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



Food Pantry Thanksgiving Wish List

Stuffing - Turkeys
Cranberry Sauce
Fresh Carrots
Fresh Potatoes
Canned Turkey Gravy
or Packaged Gravy Mix
Rolls
Fresh Onions
Fresh Squash
Apple or Squash Pie



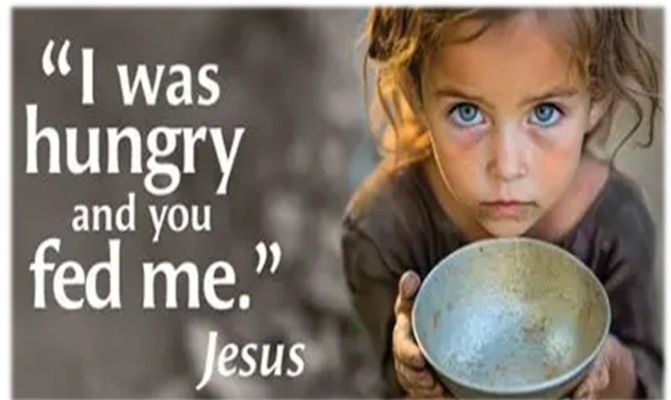
Conway Village Congregational Church **Food Pantry**

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.



<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—March 2025	85	144	6,048	88	14	10	18
April - June 2025	94	183	10,390	96	39	21	11
July - September 2025	108	210	18,900	92	41	19	16
October 2025	42	93	8,370	35	30	9	11
Total Year to Date	329	630	43,708	311	114	59	56

Deacons

In November we celebrate the holiday "Thanksgiving". The leaves change color and fall from the trees, while the weather gets cooler and we prepare for winter. I came across this Thanksgiving Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, which reminds us that we have so much to be thankful for every single day.

"Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

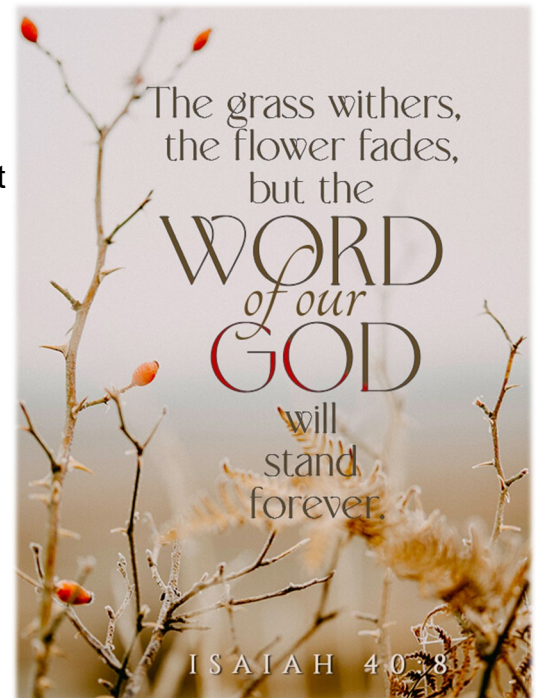
We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen."

Your Deacons,
Judy Workman, Beth Campbell, Jill Reynolds,
Charles Monaghan & Charles (Boz) Boswell



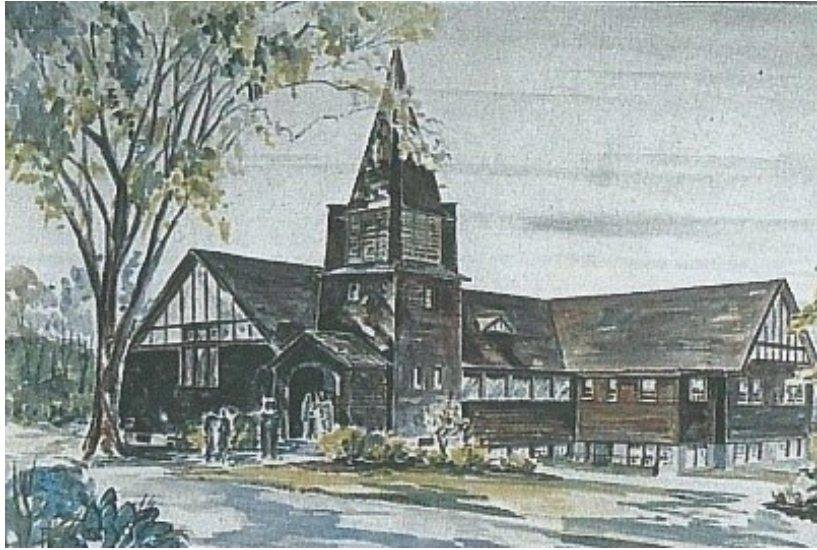
Conway Village Congregational Church

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."

Conway Village Congregational Church

"The Brown Church"



How to Donate to the Conway Village Church

For those who have asked how to make a contribution, donations to the **Conway Village Church** may be made in the following ways:

- **Checks** payable to *Conway Village Church* can be sent to P.O. Box 333, Conway, NH 03818.
- **Online:** Credit card donations can be made securely through **Zeffy** or **PayPal**.

Our **PayPal** account remains active; however, most credit card donations are now processed through **Zeffy**, which does **not charge any fees** to nonprofits — allowing the church to receive **100% of your donation**. (PayPal deducts 2.9% in fees.)

In addition to credit cards, Zeffy also accepts **Apple Pay** and **Google Pay**.

We are blessed by the continued support of our valley community, which helps us sustain our programs, community outreach, and the ongoing repairs and maintenance of our historic building following the December 2023 flood.

Scan either of the QR codes below to donate to the church using credit cards or phone pay app.



*thank
you*
For Donating!





- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| † Cathy Currier | † Teresa Bernhardt |
| † Colleen Albert | † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger |
| † Elise & John Edgerton | † Suzanne & Eddie |
| † Linda Frechette | † Misty |
| † Alice Spear | † Charlotte |
| † Carol Baribeau | † Margaret Marshall |
| † Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne | † John & Kathy P. |
| † Mark & Caroline Weld | † Cynthia Saxby |
| † Eileen Redmond | † Sky Yeaton |
| † Debbie Kelly | † Kathy Monahan |
| † Greg Turgeon | † Lewis Busell & Family |
| † Tom Steele | † Logan Campbell |
| † Paula Burgess | |

*Happy Birthday
To All Those
Born In November*

Tailspin Farms
www.tailspinfarms.com

 Sut Marshall
 Nancy Geiger
 Dreaner Sanford
 Dawn Vitters

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

4 - 3 - 2 - 1 weeks to Advent. Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th.

The Brown Church is a very busy place leading up to Christmas! The Diaconate plans to decorate Fellowship Hall in preparation for the Christmas season after church on November 23rd. If you would like to help us decorate the trees and the Narthex, your help would be greatly appreciated! We want the church to be ready for Advent and the Christmas fair and Tree Lighting on the 1st weekend of December - December 6th. We will provide a light lunch during coffee before the decorating begins. Food contributions are welcome.



As a part of Advent this year, we are beginning a new tradition. More news about this will follow in the December newsletter. Until then, in preparation for this, we are asking for your help in locating decorative or vintage bells that ring. If you have one or more and would like to share a "Christmas" bell, it would be a great way to spread Joy this Christmas.

In anticipation of "God with us",
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,

The Deacons,
Beth, Jill, Judy, Boz and Charles

**Bells Will
Be Ringing**



November 2025 Worship Schedule



Sunday, November 2nd – *communion/necrology*
Annual Pledges Received

Psalm 32:1-7

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Luke 19:1-10

Sermon: “*A Vision for an Appropriate Time*”

Sunday, November 9th – *Annual Pledge Received*

Psalm 98/Psalm 17:1-9/Ps 145:1-5

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Luke 20:27-38

Sermon: “*A Glorious Temple*”

Sunday, November 16th – *Annual Pledges Received*

Psalm 98

Malachi 4:1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Sermon: “*Leaping Out like Calves from the Stall*”

Sunday, November 23rd – *Thanksgiving/Ingathering Sunday*

Psalm 100

Philemon 4:4-9

John 6:25-35

Sermon: “*Work for Food that Endures*”

Sunday, November 30th – *1st Advent*

Psalm 122

Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: “*They Shall Beat Swords into Plowshares*”

We are open for Worship Services in Fellowship Hall!

Service 10:00 AM

Please join us for Coffee Fellowship following worship service!

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
2 10 AM Worship Communion Sunday Annual Gift Sunday	3 <u>New Fall Hours</u> 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	4 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	5 9am Diaconate	6 NH Food Bank Delivery	7 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	8
9 10 AM Worship Annual Gift Sunday Guest Lay Preacher Curt Renyolds	10 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	11 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study  4:30pm Trustees	12	13	14 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	15
16 10 AM Worship Annual Gift Sunday	17 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	18 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	19 4:30 Council Meeting	20  <u>Articles Due</u>	21 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	22
23 10 AM Worship Thanksgiving Sunday Tree Decorating following worship service 	24 9am-2pm Pantry Giving Out Thanksgiving Dinners 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	25 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	26	27  <u>Office Closed</u>	28 No Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	29
30 						