

# Conway Village Congregational Church "The Brown Church"

## **The Good News**

January 2026

Volume 15

Issue 1



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

#### **Moderator's Moment**

It's a new year, and while we have many things to be thankful for from last year, it is time to set our new goals for the new year.

- Goal number 1: Have an access ramp built on the back of the church and have the entire church building re-sided.
- Goal number 2: Begin work on the sanctuary. The most expensive part is having the old plaster removed by an asbestos removal company. Even if this was the only thing that we accomplished on the sanctuary, that would be huge.
- Goal number 3: Have a successful fundraising campaign for the siding. This would allow us to do more work on the sanctuary.
- Goal number 4: Either secure a year-round accompanist, and begin working on a choir, or at the very least follow-up with at least one service each month with live music.

I would love to have a goal for this year to grow the membership, but at this time the church is not the most attractive offering. The new siding will go a long way in showing an outward sign to the community that the church is alive and will make people curious to see what is going on.

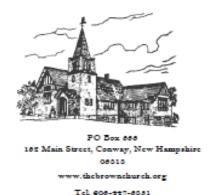


If you would like to get involved, your participation on the Deaconate, Trustees, Council, Christian Ed and Music/Choir would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to spring when a lot of this work will begin. By the end of summer, the outside of the church should be looking really good. While I would love to ramble on and on about all the hard work put in by many people this past year

for the sake of the church and the community, I think I will simply end with Spock's greeting as a blessing for the church. "Live long, and prosper!"

Sincerely, Carl F. Vitters Moderator



## The Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ Reverend John & Hughes, II

### November 19, 2025 NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

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

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at approximately 11:00 am at the Conway Village Congregational Church after worship. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom platform. Voting will be done via roll call method. 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 Annual Meeting will be:

- To hear reports of the officers, board and standing committees for the preceding year.
- To approve the Budget for 2026.
- To elect officers, board and standing committee members for 2026.
- To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 19th of November 2025

Carl Vitters

## Carl Vitters

Moderator Conway Village Congregational Church



I want to say thank you so much to our pastor and congregation for all the love, care and support given to me in my recent convalescence at home!! I am so grateful for you all!! The many meals, calls, texts, cards and prayers meant so much! I can't say thank you enough!! May God bless each and everyone of you!! I am feeling much better and hoping to get to church soon and see you all!!

Many Thanks and Blessings, Deb Arnold





"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." - 2 Timothy 3:14-15 (NRSV)

What do you do when you don't know what you believe anymore because you don't know what to believe anymore?

We've learned and believed this: "In these days, there will be distressing times—selfishness, extreme arrogance, greed, cruelty, manipulation, outright lies, death-dealing propaganda, exploitation, oppression." - 2 Timothy 3:1-4.

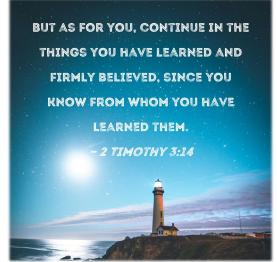
While we contend with the multiple troubling truths that surround us, the holy truths of what we've learned and believed ground us.

#### Prayer

Remind us, ground us, teach us again so that we might learn and firmly believe. Amen.

Chris Mereschuk (Daily Devotional)

Your Deacons, Charles "Boz"Boswell, Jill Reynolds, Judy Workman & Beth Campbell





Saturday, December 6th, following our Holiday Fair, all shared hot coco and cookies. We then went outside for caroling and a tree lighting!

#### OUTREACH

It has been a very busy 45 days for the Pantry. We ended November with an increased number of 49 households, 9 of which are new clients, that's 99 individuals! We provided 60 Thanksgiving baskets right before the holiday. A big thank you to all who volunteered!

There has been a lot of publicity about the local food pantries being busy, which resulted in a greater number of food drives and donations in November and December. Our storage shelves are quite full, but will deplete fast due to pantry days being very busy. Tuesday, December 15th, we provided 37 people with food, that's one day!

In the first 3 weeks of December, we received cash donations in the amount of \$16,284.

When spring rolls around, the Outreach Committee will look into improving the back door, to address falling snow and rain (having some sort of cover) and a ramp. Food donations come in the back door, and a number of people, needing access assistance, come in that way.

Wishing everyone a Very Merry New Year! Anne Getchell

#### **Outreach Committee**

Anne Getchell, Charlyne Gray & Marilyn Hughes



'No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another."

CVCC Food Pantry

### Pantry Wish List

- Canned fruit
- Assorted Canned pasta
- Canned baked beans
- Tuna Helper
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake mix
- Ramen Noodles
- Canned beef stew
- Ketchup
- Hamburger Helper
- Pancake syrup
- Canned tuna fish
- Rice-a-Roni
- **Applesauce**
- **Peanut Butter**
- Jelly
- Tomato Sauce
- Soup (packaged or canned)

#### **Personal Care Items**

(unopened only)

- Toilet paper
- **Toothpaste**
- **Toothbrush**
- Paper towels
- Dish detergent
- Small laundry detergent
- Bar soap
- Deodorant





Rev. Hughes accepting a check in the amount of \$1,000 from Jeffrey McLellan, Lighthouse Credit Union Branch Manager. A huge thank you to Lighthouse for their generous donation.

## 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.

MONTH (Excludes Dec 30, 2025)	<u>Households</u>	<u>People</u> <u>Served</u>	<u>Meals</u> Given	<u>Over 60</u>	Under 18	Walk Ins	New Households
Jan June, 2025	179	327	16,438	184	53	31	29
July - Dec. 23rd, 2025	234	493	44,370	194	112	41	39

### 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.







#### Trustees

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR, WELCOME 2026

In December, we had the Holiday Fair. So many beautiful crafts, baked goods, and raffle prizes. Thank you Beth and Wally for the pulled pork lunch. The fair made \$2,114 which went towards operating expenses.



Duddie gave an update on Stewardship. We have 24 pledges, totaling \$71,889. The Trustees use this number to put together the next year's budget. If pledges and offer ings do not cover all the expenses then it is covered by fundraising, donations, and building use. Utilizing casino funds has been discussed, as we can not continue tak-

ing money out of the Endowment. <u>This all needs to be discussed at the Annual Meeting, your input on the budget is needed.</u> Carl and Anne will finish up the budget in time to have it in the Annual Report.

The Annual Meeting is <u>January 25th</u>, right after the service. Annual reports should be available to all, the week before the meeting.



Heat in the Sanctuary was installed at the end of December. Next steps are to remove the asbestos walls, insulate, re-wire, install new windows and sheetrock. All this will depend on a successful Capital Campaign. In the spring, the church siding will be replaced as required by the insurance company. The \$220,000 has been set aside for this.

Save the date: **Pasta Dinner, February 20th.** We are still working on who will be the lead chef(s). We will need volunteers to set up, serve, clean up and reset the room for the Sunday Service. Please contact Melody in the office if you would like to sign up. Thank you in advance for your support!

Anne Getchell Trustee



If you have time to volunteer on Friday, February 20th, please contact Melody in the office at 603-447-3851 or info@thebrownchurch.org.

Thank you.





- + Cathy Currier
- t Colleen Albert
- † Elise & John Edgerton
- † Linda Frechette
- † Alice Spear
- † Carol Baribeau
- † Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne
- † Mark & Caroline Weld
- + Eileen Redmond
- † Debbie Kelly
- † Greg Turgeon
- † Tom Steele
- † Paula Burgess
- † Teressa Bernhardt

- † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger
- + Suzanne & Eddie
- † Misty
- + Charlotte
- † Margaret Marshall
- † John & Kathy P.
- + Cynthia Saxby
- † Sky Yeaton
- † Kathy Monahan
- t Logan Campbell
- † Lew Busell
- t Joyce Hahn
- † Gloria Aspinall
- + Family of Jean Hamilton

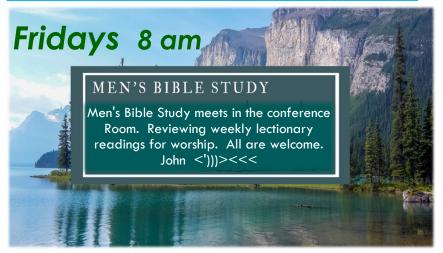
## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume on Tuesday afternoons on December 30th, at 1 PM in the Conference

Room. We will continue our Study of The Chosen, Season 5.

We have an empty seat waiting just for you. You are welcome anytime!

Blessings, Judy





- Laura Kenny
- Alice Vierus
- Bobby Graustein
- Beverly Taylor
- Sylvia Weld
- Sharrene Hendersen-Bernhardt
- Rev. John Hughes
- Jill Reynolds
- Bethanne Graustein

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

## **Fresh Homestyle Meal**

Join us for a free free community dinner!





Everyone Is Welcome!!

Mondays Winter Hours

4 - 5

**Take Out Only!** 



Call office for menu. 603-447-3851



## January Worship Schedule 2026

Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: "Taking Another Road"

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> – *baptism of Jesus* 

Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: "Ripping into the Future"

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – *Epiphany 2* 

Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

Sermon: "Look! Do You See It?"

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – *Epiphany 3* 

Isaiah 9:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-19 Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: "Immediately They Followed"

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Psalm 29

Psalm 40:1-11

Psalm 27:1:4-9

Annual Meeting to follow worship at 11:30 a.m.

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
"We are a con all, and by fo	Mission St nmunity of fait llowing His tea	th in Jesus Christ achings we willin th other through	1 Happy New Year 2026  Office Closed	2 8am Men's Bible Study	3	
4 10 AM Worship	5 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	6 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Trustees	7	8 NH Food Bank Delivery	9 8am Men's Bible Study	10
11 10 AM Worship	12 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	13 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	9:30 am Diaconate 4:30 Council	15	16 8am Men's Bible Study	17
18 10 AM Worship	19 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	20 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry Articles Newsletter Due 1pm Women's Bible Study	21	22	23 8am Men's Bible Study	24
25 10 AM Worship  ANNUAL MEETING  Following worship service	26 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	27 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	28	29	30 8amMen's Bible Study	31