



Conway Village Congregational Church

*"The Brown Church"*

# The Good News

February 2026

Volume 15      Issue 2



Conway Village Congregational Church 132 Main Street, P.O. Box 333 Conway NH 03818

Phone 603-447-3851 Email: [Info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:Info@thebrownchurch.org) Website: [www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)

Pastor: Rev. John Hughes

## Trustees

We thank all of those who attended the Annual Meeting whether in person on that cold day or on zoom. If anyone would like a copy of the Annual Report, please call the office. A summary of the minutes is in this newsletter on pages 3 - 4.

The next Trustees meeting is on February 10th at 4:30 in the conference room. We want to remind you that anyone can attend. If interested, let a Trustee know.

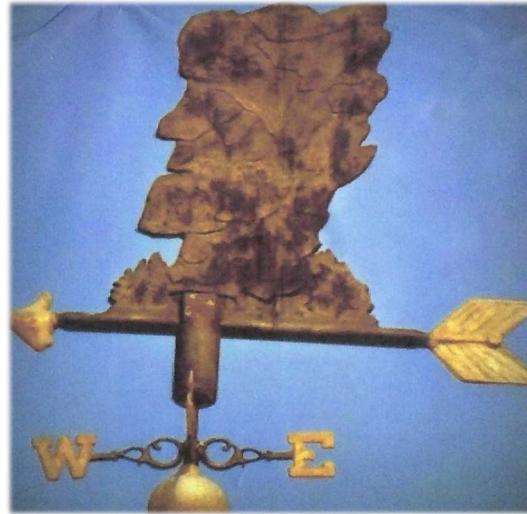
The Masons are working on plans to convert the Henderson Room to their Lodge. They have a contractor and electrician helping them with the plans. They are keeping us up to date.

At a recent meeting with Shawn Bergeron, it was suggested we remove the weathervane and have it cleaned and straightened when replaced. Estimates will be obtained at that time. We will consider a re-dedication when it is put back up. Shawn's office was able to do some research to determine if any Kenison relatives are still in the area and could be part of the re-dedication.

Thank you Brian Wiggin for lending the Conway Book, by Janet Hounsell. The weathervane was gifted to the church in 1970 by Arthur Kenison Jr. in memory of his mother Mrs. Arthur Kenison Sr. It is 19 inches wide, 36 inches tall and weighs 30 lbs. It is considered unique since the mold it was made in was destroyed.

## Trustee Board

Anne Getchell, John Edgerton,  
Duddie Andrews, Nancy Irving,  
& Carl Vitters, ex officio  
member, Treasurer





# Ash Wednesday Service

*Everyone is Welcome at the Brown Church!*

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Conway Village Congregational Church  
132 Main Street, Conway NH



## *Service of the Three Communions*

Join us for a Service of the Three Communions – a modern liturgical celebration inspired by ancient Christian practices described by figures such as Hippolytus. This service uses three distinct elements to reflect key moments in Christian history and theology: the wilderness journey, the shared meals of Jesus, and the Last Supper.

While not a formal ancient liturgy, the Service of the Three Communions includes three symbolic acts:

- First Communion (Matza & Milk): Reflects the Israelites' wilderness journey and the promise of a new covenant with God.
- Second Communion (Pita & Common Meal): Honors the meals Jesus shared, emphasizing "God-with-Us."
- Third Communion (Bread & Cup/Wine): Commemorates the Last Supper and the new covenant established by Jesus.

### **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."*

# Annual Meeting Summary

## Conway Village Congregational Church

January 25, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Church Membership was held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, with a quorum of **23 members participating** (17 in person and 6 via Zoom). The meeting reflected both the challenges and the hopeful forward momentum of the church as we continue recovery from the flood and plan for the future.

### Leadership, Officers, and Governance

Members approved the slate of officers and committee members as presented in the Annual Report. Following Tom Workman's resignation, Carl Vitters will serve as *Acting Treasurer*. The current financial process continues to provide appropriate checks and balances, with bills processed by Admin Asst., reviewed by the Trustees, and checks signed by the Moderator.

Melody will continue as *Church Clerk*, handling membership records, meeting notices, and official communications. Duddie will continue as *Financial Secretary* and is seeking an assistant to begin training with the goal of a future transition.

The **Church Council** structure continues to work well. There is one open At-Large Council seat. Both the Diaconate and the Trustees Boards currently have four members each

### Minutes, Reports, and Historical Record

The minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting and the Special July Meeting, along with committee reports, were approved as printed in the Annual Report. Members were also informed that the Historical Report, printed separately due to timing, was included in the approved reports.

### Financial Overview and 2026 Budget

The **2026 Budget** was presented and approved. Church leadership was candid about the financial realities facing the church. While expenses have been reduced wherever possible, ongoing deficit spending is not sustainable over the long term. The past several years—marked by COVID closures, the December 2023 flood, extended building shutdowns, and major system replacements—have made budgeting particularly challenging.

Moving forward, the church must focus on increasing income, including membership growth and new revenue opportunities, while continuing careful stewardship of expenses.

### Fundraising: Looking Back and Ahead

Fundraising remains a significant part of the church's financial picture. In 2025, fundraising efforts generated \$37,029 in gross income and \$25,405 in net income, accounting for a meaningful portion of overall church income.

Plans for 2026 include the February 20 Italian Dinner, continued participation in the Fryeburg Fair, and a Christmas Fair, with timing still under discussion. Leaders emphasized the need to balance fundraising with the capacity of our volunteer base and welcomed thoughtful, sustainable ideas.

### Building Projects and Flood Recovery

Important progress continues on flood recovery and building improvements. Recent work includes new carpeting and heating upgrades. **Exterior siding replacement** is scheduled for the spring and is required to maintain insurance coverage and an occupancy permit. While this project will greatly improve the church's

(continued on next page)

## Annual Meeting Summary

To date, the church has received 75% reimbursement for completed flood-related work. Several additional sanctuary projects remain ahead, including wall replacement, insulation, windows, electrical work, and accessibility improvements, and will be addressed as funding allows.

### Capital Campaign Planning

Recognizing the scope of remaining work, the church is preparing for a capital campaign focused specifically on replacing sanctuary funds used for the siding project. Plans were shared for an **Integrated Sanctuary Space** designed to support worship, community gatherings, meetings, and fellowship meals.

The campaign goal is **\$250,000**, with leadership gifts currently being sought. A broader public campaign will follow once sufficient commitments are in place.

### Community Engagement and Visibility

Members discussed opportunities to increase the church's visibility and engagement in the wider community, particularly around **Conway's July 4th celebrations** in 2026. Ideas included opening the church to visitors, sharing the story of flood recovery, and highlighting plans for the future.

The possibility of receiving charitable funds from **Revo Casino**, as permitted under state law, was discussed. Any future participation would proceed only after further discussion and with approval by a vote of the membership.

### Worship Life and Music

Members expressed a strong desire to return to **live music in worship**, a long-standing tradition of the church. Efforts to find an accompanist or pianist continue, and members are encouraged to share any leads with the Diaconate.

### Gratitude and Closing

The Moderator expressed sincere thanks to **Anne Getchell, Nancy Divine, Melody, Judy, the Diaconate**, and the many volunteers whose dedication continues to sustain the church through recovery and renewal.

The meeting concluded at **12:45 p.m.**, with appreciation for the thoughtful participation of all who attended.

### HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE

Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892

The Reverend Samuel Longfellow shared the distinguished talent of poet with his famous brother Henry W. Longfellow. An ardent theist and devoted pastor, he spent his life in active service to others. Ill health was the reason for his early retirement from the ministry, as well as his desire to write the life of his beloved brother. Earnest devotional emotion is evidenced in his hymn "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine," which was published in the year 1864. Deep mysticism pervades in every stanza of this great hymn and opens the channels toward God for our prayers.

Holy Spirit, Truth divine,  
dawn upon this soul of mine.  
Voice of God, and inward Light,  
wake my spirit, clear my sight.



# Deacons

This year's February vacation week will be a busy one. Valentine's Day is on Saturday. On Wednesday, Feb 18th @ 6pm we are celebrating Ash Wednesday with a service of the Three Communions. Nancy Irving has put together flyers so we can share that Everyone is Welcome and encouraged to join us.

On Friday Feb 20th we are going to have a fundraiser dinner. Nancy has created another flyer for this to help us spread the word.

We have been continuing to work with the Tech Team to streamline both the in person and online worship experience. Nancy Irving is preparing a poll for all who participate online. It will be available through the "chat". Please help us by supplying your input.

The Diaconate has made a commitment to limit how much is withdrawn from the Memorial Fund. Beginning April 1st, (Easter Sunday) and the first Sunday of every month forward, we will be supplying Diaconate designated envelopes in order to meet our budget.

May God's grace and peace be with us in everything we do.

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



## Olympic Themed Pasta Dinner



Join friends and neighbors for a winter evening of fellowship at our pasta dinner. This fundraiser supports our church and invites time together around the table, with the Winter Olympics displayed quietly on multiple TVs.

Conway Village Church  
132 Main St Conway NH

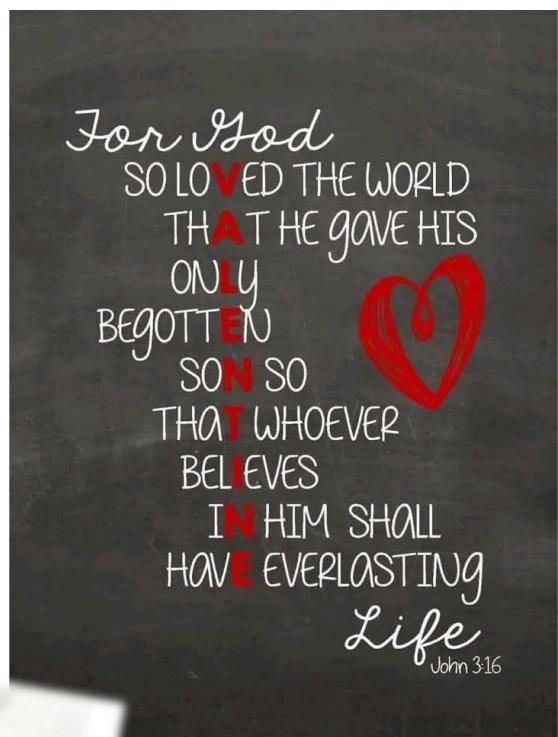
Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Adults: \$20  
Children 5-12: \$10



### Dinner Menu

- Soup
- Pasta
- Red Sauce & Alfredo Sauce
- Meatballs
- Mixed Vegetables
- Salad
- Bread
- Dessert



If you have time to volunteer for this dinner, on Friday, February 20th, please contact

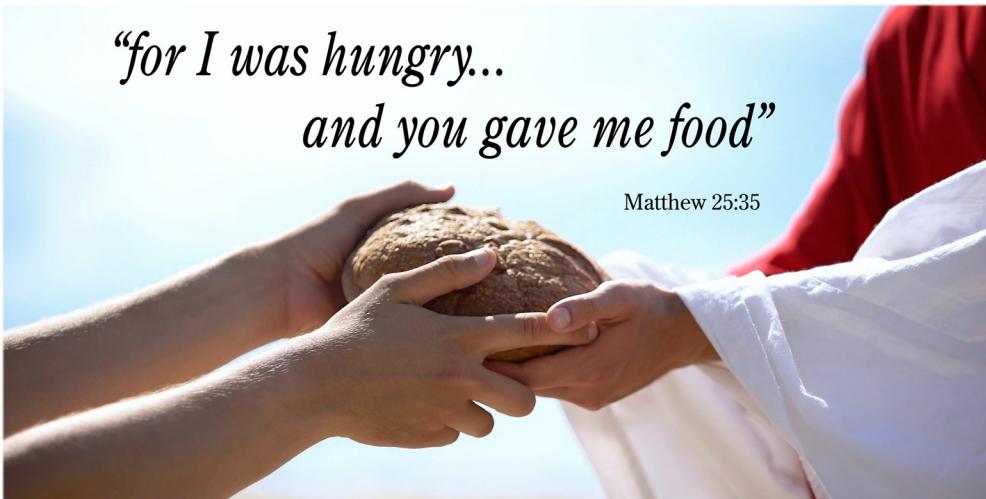
Melody in the office at  
603-447-3851 or  
[info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:info@thebrownchurch.org).  
Thank you.



## Food Pantry/Outreach

*“for I was hungry...  
and you gave me food”*

Matthew 25:35



Over the last few months, there have been several people hoping to come to the pantry but could because they work during the day. As we all recognize, today's pay scale has not kept up with local housing costs! Therefore, on February 23rd, we will have a "test run" for the clients during the late afternoon (3pm—5pm) to provide them with food. Years ago, our pantry held evening hours every week. We will begin this test run once a month for now. We currently have a total of 4 clients needing these later hours. If this number does not increase, the pantry will be open from 3pm to 4pm. If you are interested in helping those in need, please give Melody a call (603) 447-3851.



*And if you offer yourself to  
the hungry  
And satisfy the need of the  
afflicted.  
Then your light will rise in  
darkness.  
And your gloom will become  
like midday.*

Isaiah 58:10 NASB

### HEALTHY FOUNDATIONS



**Outreach Committee**  
Anne Getchell, Charlyne  
Gray & Marilyn Hughes

**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	Households	People Served	Meals Given	Over 60	Under 18	Walk Ins	New Households
January 2026	28	60	2,520	29	9	9	3
January 2025	22	38	1,596	23	4	0	5
Increase	6	22	924	6	5	9	-2

### 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

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.

**zeffy** 



*thank*  
*you*  
**For Donating!**



## PRAYER REQUEST

+ Cathy Currier	+ Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger
+ Colleen Albert	+ Suzanne & Eddie
+ Elise & John Edgerton	+ Misty
+ Linda Frechette	+ Charlotte
+ Alice Spear	+ Margaret Marshall
+ Carol Baribeau	+ John & Kathy P.
+ Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne	+ Cynthia Saxby
+ Mark & Caroline Weld	+ Sky Yeaton
+ Eileen Redmond	+ Kathy Monahan
+ Debbie Kelly	+ Logan Campbell
+ Greg Turgeon	+ Lew Busell
+ Tom Steele	+ Joyce Hahn
+ Paula Burgess	+ Gloria Aspinall
+ Teressa Bernhardt	+ Family of Jean Hamilton

## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday afternoons 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

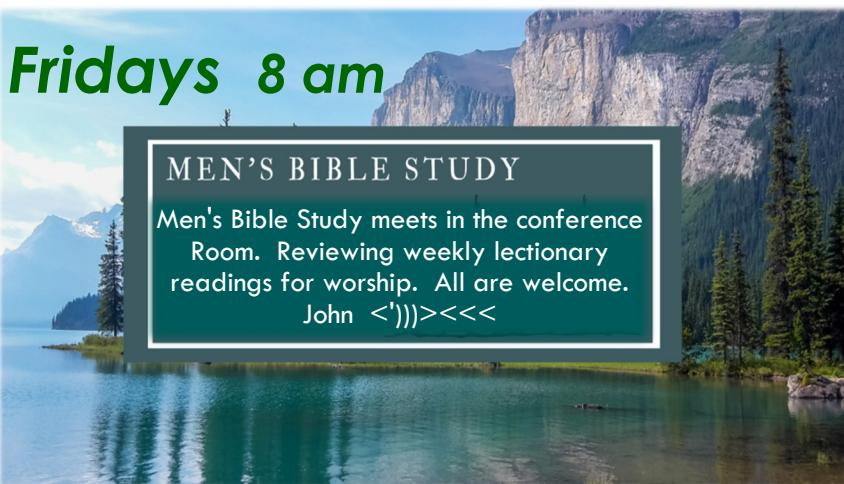


Join Us!

## Fridays 8 am

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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



Paul Getchell

Marilyn Hughes

Dan Lavigne

Jennifer Lavigne

Donna West

Jonathan Saxby

Karen MacDonald

Gary MacDonald



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

## Fresh Homestyle Meal

Join us for a free community dinner!

Free Community Dinner



Everyone Is Welcome!!

Mondays

Winter Hours

4 - 5

Take Out Only!

Call office for menu.

603-447-3851





**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – communion**

Micah 6:1-8  
1 Corinthhians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12a

**Sermon: "What Kind of Fool?"**

**Psalm 146:6-10**

**Mountain View Community Worship** – 2:00 p.m.  
93 Water Village Rd, Ossipee, N.H.

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 58:7-10  
1 Corinthhians 2:1-5  
Matthew 5:13-16

**Sermon: "Relishing Our Life"**

**Psalm 112:4-9**

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Sirach 15:15-20  
1 Corinthhians 2:6-10  
Matthew 5:17-37

**Sermon: "Are My Good Works Good?"**

**Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34**

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**  
**Service of Hippolytus – 6:00 p.m.**

Joel 2:12-18  
**Psalm 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17**  
2 Corinthhians 5:20-6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**Meditation: "Remembering"**

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Sermon: "The Problem of Resisting Temptation"**

**Psalm 51:3-6, 12-13, 17**

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)

# February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Worship	2 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	3 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Trustees	4	5 NH Food Bank Delivery	6 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	7
8 10 AM Worship	9 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	10 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	11	12 USDA Delivery	13 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	14 
15 10 AM Worship	16  <u>Office Closed</u> No Dinner Bell	17 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study 4:30 Council	18 9:30 am Diaconate Wednesday Service 6 pm	19	20 8am Men's Bible Study  <u>Office Closed</u>	21
22 10 AM Worship 	23 New Hours! 3 - 5 pm Food Pantry Articles Due Newsletter 4-5 pm Dinner Bell	24 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 1pm Women's Bible Study	25	26	27 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	28