

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 1

Special offering this month: Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross

January 2025



A New Song



Psalm 96 begins this way:

O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing a new song to God, the psalmist tells us – not the same old song one more time around. As old as the scriptures are, they are always about new beginnings and fresh starts. When, generation after generation, the people of Israel couldn't get their side of the covenant with God right, God's response was "I will make a new covenant, ... and I will write it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31). And Isaiah tells us that God says,

"I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

God is always doing something new, and God invites us to go in new directions, too. **On February 1, we will gather in retreat to chart a new course for the future. I wonder - what new song will we sing with God?** Will we choose a new mission focus? Will we imagine new programs for our growing children? Will we come up with new ways to use our building and grounds? Will we find new ways to worship God together?

It is a new year and time for a new song. Let all the earth sing to the Lord!

Pastor Cathy

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Congregational Church**
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An Open and Affirming Congregation
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All Members: Ministers

Deacon:
Norman Larson
The Village Preschool
Laura Curran
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Property Team
Jeff Koniszewski
603-521-4473

Church Life

Church Retreat Planned

A Special Invitation from the CHCC profile committee: A CHCC Retreat

This is an opportunity for us to come together to review the past 5 years, to note what we've accomplished (and what we haven't) and to look ahead to what we'd like the church to be for the next five years. What are we thankful for and what do we hope to see happen in the coming years? Cathy will lead us in a review of her time with us, and Fred will help us to look ahead.

When: Saturday, February 1st, 9 am to 2:30 pm (snow date Sunday February 2nd 11:30 am to 5 pm.)

Where: Meredith Bay Village Community Room, Whittier Highway (directly across from Irving Station)

The committee will provide coffee and pastries, dessert and snacks: all participants are asked to bring a bagged lunch.

Please save the date and RSVP to Louisa (CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org) by January 19th.

**A Tisket, A Tasket
Do You Have a Basket?**



Did you receive a gift basket this holiday season? If you do not need the **empty** basket, please consider donating it for the 2025 Holly Fair gift baskets. Simply leave the basket(s) on the stage in Gilpatric Hall and an elf will take care of it. Thanks!

Christmas Eve Services



On Christmas Eve, CHCC held two services with a total of 117 attendees. At 5 pm, the service was held outside. Worshipers were greeted by lanterns lit all the way out to Route 25. The 7 pm service included many readers, the choir, and special music from the handbell choir and the Doscher family.



Notes from the December Cabinet Meeting:

- Updated the church's investment policy;
- Received an encouraging stewardship report;
- Received a plan to obtain a used piano for Gilpatric Hall;
- Approved a plan to invite families to purchase new tables for Gilpatric Hall to replace the heavy old tables;
- Noted the sending of Mission Matching Grants for 2024;
- Received updates from the Pastor Sharing Group and the Security Grant;
- Approved the request of the church profile study group to have a retreat in February to review our 5 years with Cathy and to look ahead for the next 5 years;
- Began to plan for a congregational meeting to review the 2025 budget in February;
- Thanked Dave Ostroth for his work as Trustee as he completes his term (especially after serving as the lone trustee during 2024).

We thank the cabinet for its work in overseeing the life of our church!

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be January 21st by Zoom.

Property Group News

The Property Group has been working for awhile to get the necessary jobs done in the church and on the grounds. We meet as needed, approximately monthly, for breakfast at the Center Harbor Diner or Village Kitchen and then go over the work that needs to be done and parcel it out as people are able to do it. If you would be willing to help, please let Louisa or I know and I will make sure you get an invitation to the next get together. Even if you can't make the meetings but are willing to help with some of the tasks that come up, let me know and I will add you to our "call list".

As of January, Dave Ostroth's term as Trustee is ending and he will no longer be leading the Property Group. I (Jeff) have agreed to act as coordinator/manager going forward. If there are any property issues, please send an email or call me. Emails are best because I can capture any information easily and reliably. If you call and I can't write things down, it's harder to make sure things are dealt with properly. Obviously, sometimes calls are necessary.

One issue that needs a volunteer, starting in January, is garbage collection. Every two weeks we need to collect garbage in the church and Gilpatric Hall, place it in the Casella cart outside, and roll the cart to the curb for pickup on Monday. I can return the cart on Tuesday when I pick up my mail, but I am a bit busy already on Sundays to deal with the collection process. So, we are looking for a volunteer to take on this task. If you can't do it every other Sunday, you can ask someone else to cover for you. Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Koniszewski (Jknh0987@gmail.com or 603 521-4473)

Books 'n Bites

Come and share what you've been reading!

Tuesday, January 21st at 1:30 pm

Interested? Contact Diane Crawford onie54@gmail.com or Jill Morton at ladymort17@gmail.com

For the love of books!



News from the Board of Missions

January Mission of the Month: Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross



It may seem strange to have “The Christmas Fund” as our January mission of the month. It’s because the money we offer NOW is used during the whole year and also to wish retired clergy a “Merry Christmas” NEXT year. This year’s theme is:

*“And an angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them...” (Luke 2:9)*

The Christmas Fund is one of the national UCC’s four special mission offerings. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, supplements small annuities and health premiums, and sends Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

UCC congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. This offering is managed by the Pension Boards.

Please think of a favorite pastor or minister who has been important in your faith journey... and give to **The Christmas Fund** offering in honor of that special person. Thank you!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

During 2024, the members and friends of Center Harbor Congregational Church gave **\$9,871** to the different monthly missions and Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM is the over-arching offering that makes all other national offerings operate). **THAT IS AMAZING!**

But wait! There’s MORE! Because of the generosity and foresight of Gertrude Matthes, the Matthes Fund was set up decades ago to proportionally augment our annual mission giving.

At the end of this year, the Mission Board divided **\$7,386** (interest) to augment our monthly missions and OCWM. (below: first column is CHCC giving for each offering; second is matching amount third is the TOTAL mission giving for 2024)

Christmas Fund	\$473 +\$379	\$852
Community Caregivers	\$945 +\$732	\$1677
Habitat	\$919 +\$712	\$1444
Horton Center	\$465 +\$373	\$838
Hunger	\$370 +\$302	\$672
Ministry of Space	\$1771 +1355	\$3126
Neighbors in Need	\$450 +\$362	\$812
New Beginnings	\$510 +\$406	\$916
OCWM	\$2571 +\$1948	\$4519
One Great Hour Sharing	\$777 +\$606	\$1383
Strengthen Church	\$245 +\$208	\$453
Other Causes		\$1192

TOTAL 2024 MISSION GIVING for our church is **\$18,446!**
“Well done, good and faithful [and generous], servants!”

Sunday School



Village Preschool

On December 22nd the Sunday School presented the program “Living Christmas Ornaments” featuring the children explaining the meaning behind common Christmas ornaments—the star, the candy cane, the bell, the angel, and the candle. After each explanation, the congregation joined in singing a related Christmas carol while people were invited to hang star, candy cane, bell, angel, and candle ornaments on a Christmas tree. Towards the end of the program, the children reminded us that it couldn't be Christmas without Jesus then an angel welcomed Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus to join the group in the front for one last carol.

Thank you to Carol Asher for organizing this year's Christmas program, to Linda and Doug Verge for playing Mary and Joseph, to Patty Finn for accompanying the children on piano, and to all the Sunday school teachers for making the annual Christmas program possible. And thanks especially to our Sunday School children for the great performance!

Sunday school classes will resume on January 5th! There will be no Sunday school on the MLK holiday weekend (January 19th).

Did you know that this month The Village Preschool is celebrating its 20 year anniversary? Sally Mann began the program in January of 2005, and Miss Laura joined the team in the fall of 2006 with her 3 year old son Nicholas.

Our program has evolved over the years to meet the ever changing needs of the community and the students in attendance. Starting out as a 5 day a week 3 hour a day program, we have emerged into a 3 day a week 5 hour a day program. We place an emphasis on learning about the natural world and the environment in which we live and play.

This month we will be immersed in learning about hibernation, migration and adaption, animal tracks out in the meadow, and the animals who make those tracks.





- 01/08 Carol Asher
- 01/09 Kent Warner
- 01/09 Chris Thompson
- 01/12 Cindy Thompson
- 01/13 Patrick Curran (son)
- 01/24 Isadora Cartier
- 01/27 Carrie Crosby

Inclement Weather Policy

The church will use WMUR to announce weather-related closures and cancellations. If there is snow or ice, please make a safe decision about travel for yourself, and then consult WMUR (on television or online) to check whether the church will be open.

During the work week, the office follows the Inter-Lakes School District for weather delays and closures



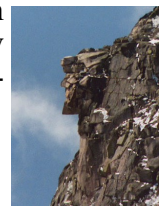
New Year—New Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30 to 11:30 am
 Wednesday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
 Thursday 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Opportunities In Our Community

The Old Man: His Life and Legacy
 Thursday, January 16th
 6:30—7:30 pm
 Meredith Public Library

When the Old Man of the Mountain fell from his perch high above Franconia Notch, on May 3, 2003, it made international news. Many in New Hampshire and beyond responded as though mourning a beloved public figure. This program presents the "story" of the Old Man and examines the ways that public perceptions of the Profile played a role in shaping and establishing New Hampshire's identity, both symbolically and physically.



Presenter: Inez McDermott



Jan. 28, Open Mic: An Evening of Poetry and Music

6 – 8 p.m., Moultonborough Library
 4 Holland St., Moultonborough
 603-476-8895
www.moultonboroughlibrary.org.

OUR CHURCH HAS
OVER 100

Facebook followers from our community and around the world!

LIKE us! Watch for our daily posts of our church family doing God's work!

www.facebook.com/CenterHarborCongregationalChurch

Need assistance opening or managing your account?

Reach out to Cindy Thompson

ccthompson1978@gmail.com

Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

January, 2025

This Month's Mission: Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Boldface = Church Sponsored Events			1	2	3 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	4
5 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6	7 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	8 5:00 pm Mission Board. Zoom	9 7:00 pm Sunday School Meeting, Zoom	10 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	11
12 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal	13	14 4:30 pm Deacons Mtg., Zoom 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	15	16 9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom	17 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	18
19 10:00 am Worship (No Sunday School) 11:00 am Holly Fair Wrap-Up Meeting	20 MLK Day	21 1:30 pm Books & Bites, Parlor 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Cabinet Mtg., Zoom	22	23 9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom	24 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	25
26 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal	27	28 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	29	30 9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom	31 8:00 pm AA (open meeting)	

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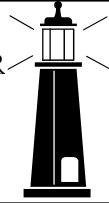
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THE
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LIGHT

January 2025



We are a church whose members love and value each other. Our faith community is a force for caring and sharing God's love in local and wider communities. As members, we learn, grow and serve together to do God's work with faith, compassion and respect.

All are Welcome

Here in the Time of the Winter Morn
by William Moore

Here in the time of the Winter morn, Love,
I see the Sunlit leaves of changing hue
Burn clear against a sky of tender blue,
Here in the time of the Winter morn, Love.
Here in the time of the Winter morn, Love,
I hear the low tone bells of changing song
Ring clear upon the air the full day long,
Here in the time of the Winter morn, Love.
I hear the bells, I see the changing leaves,
And one lone heart for Summer silent grieves,
Here in the time of the Winter morn, Love.

This poem is in the public domain. Published in Poem-a-Day on January 2, 2022, by the Academy of American Poets.



Winter Harmony by John Henry Twachtman, 1890/1900, oil on canvas. Gift of the Avalon Foundation, Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington.