

# THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 4

Special offering this month: *New Beginnings*

April 2025



**Center Harbor  
Congregational Church**  
*United Church of Christ*  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

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## *Mud Season*

*“To everything there is a season”*

The arc of the universe is bending toward spring in our part of the world. I have put my heaviest winter coat away in the closet. I no longer need it at hand on the hook right by the door. The snow is receding in our front yard, and I am beginning to fantasize about flowers and herbs. We may have another snow or two, but spring is winning its annual wrestling match with winter, and I am rejoicing.

In New Hampshire, spring means mud season. Though the calendar has already turned officially to spring, we are not yet ready for the blossoms that come with the season. Instead, we get mud. The roads in our neighborhood are unpaved, so I won't be able to walk around the block without sinking up to my ankles. Mud season is a time of waiting and preparing, of poring over seed catalogs. Mud season nourishes the roots of the plants that are coming back to life. It refills the aquifer beneath us that is still parched. It nourishes our souls as well.

By the time Easter arrives later this month, there will be bright flowers in our church; tulips and daffodils will make my heart soar. Irises will follow in their time. Then we will be headed into a summer of outdoor work and water play, and I will give thanks once again.

For now, as the air around us warms and the snow begins to melt, the mud forces us to wait a little longer. Bide a while with me in this in-between time. Let it bring you peace.

*Pastor Cathy*



# Church Life

## Celtic Music

More than 40 people attended the Tre Voce and Bell Choir concert on Sunday, March 16th. The program featured Celtic music. The two groups played a wide variety of music from Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. It was a fun afternoon of music especially when the audience was asked to join in on drums and spoons for Irish session music.

The bell choir will perform again on Maundy Thursday and Palm Sunday.



## Easter Tulips

We will again put tulips on our chancel for Easter morning. Would you like to give one in honor or memory of someone special to you? There will be a sign-up sheet in Gilpatrick Hall on Sundays.

The cost is estimated to be \$10, but we have not received a final price from Moulton Farm. We will not know for sure until early April.

There will be a bulletin insert of the donations, and you are welcome to take your plant home after the Easter service. Please contact Jill Morton for more information (ladymort17@gmail.com).



## Books 'n Bites

Did you just finish an amazing book and need to tell someone about it? Have you been reading a bunch of duds and need a recommendation?



Come and share what you've been reading!

**Tuesday, April 29th at 1:30 pm**

Contact Jill Morton (ladymort17@gmail.com) or

Diane Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)

## Game Night

On Saturday, March 22nd 12 people gathered for an evening of fun, friendship, and board games! There was lots of laughter as people played classic games like Sorry and Scrabble and some newer games like Zombie Kidz. Look for other opportunities to attend a fellowship activity soon!



## All Church Bowling Party

Dust off your bowling shoes and "pin" the date of April 13<sup>th</sup> to join us for bowling at Funspot from 4-6. Oops, don't have bowling shoes, no worries, we have you covered!! Bowling is \$6.00 per string and shoe rentals are \$4.00. There is a choice of either candle pin bowling or ten pin bowling. If you wish to join us, please email Jan and Dean Gulezian at jwgulezian@gmail.com on or before April 6<sup>th</sup> and specify whether you are interested in candle pin or ten pin bowling. We need to reserve the lanes a week in advance. Hope you can join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship!





## Notes from the March Cabinet Meeting

Actions taken at our Tuesday, 3/18 Meeting:

- Celebrated the youth led worship and Tre Voce concert on Sunday, March 16;
- Approved minutes of Cabinet meeting of February 18 and the special congregation meeting of February 23;
- Approved the Treasurer's Report with thanks;
- Decided to proceed with planning for the use of Hannaford gift cards;
- Planned a process of organizing fellowship activities;
- Approved a plan for purchase of new tables (details to follow);
- Received a report on arranging for a Transitional Pastor;
- Approved a document that will represent us in looking for a Transitional Pastor.

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be April 15th at 7 PM by Zoom.

### Holly Fair Prep Begins!

The Holly Fair elves are at work preparing for Holly Fair 2025! On February 28th, a group met to make beautiful jewelry and barrettes! There were lots of smiles, laughter, happy conversation, sharing talents, and learning new skills—all while we made some beautiful jewelry and barrettes!



The next crafting session will be March 28th at 10 am. This will be our annual card-making session with opportunities to make a variety of cards. Margaret will bring her stamps, her paper cutter, and some other card supplies, and we will have various papers, envelopes, markers, yarns and embellishments. Patty Finn will lead us in making some beautiful tree cards.

Consider joining us for one or more sessions! You will experience smiles, laughter, happy conversation, sharing of talents and new skills—all while we produce beautiful crafts for Holly Fair 2025!

### Holly Fair Dates to Remember:

All sessions are 10 am in Gilpatric Hall  
March 28—Card Making

April 18—Creating Pasta Ornaments

May 2—Decorating Wreaths

May 16—Brainstorming Gift Basket Ideas

June 6—Wood Craft (TBD)

What ideas do you have?

Send to [alibby1@icloud.com](mailto:alibby1@icloud.com)

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

Did you receive a gift basket recently? 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!



# News from the Board of Missions

## April Mission of the Month—New Beginnings

New Beginnings—Without Violence & Abuse is dedicated to ending sexual, domestic, and stalking violence through the provision of safe and effective services, including emergency refuge and support; and works toward social change by promoting an effective community response to violence. Based in Laconia, New Beginnings serves all of Belknap County.

**Your contribution supports these many services (all of which are free and confidential):**

- 24-Hour Domestic Violence Line: 1.866.644.3574
- 24-Hour Sexual Assault Line: 1.800.277.5570,
- 24-Hour Crisis Line
- 24-Hour Accompaniment
- Court Advocacy
- Emergency Assistance
- Systems Advocacy
- 1 to 1 Peer Support
- Educational & Outreach Programs
- Various Support Groups.

Especially in this Easter season, we are aware that Mary Magdalene found a brand-new beginning in Jesus Christ. For all the present-day Mary Magdalenes, please support this important service (with the hope that we can educate ourselves to completely eliminate the need for this type of program in our community and world).

### Collection of Soft Plastics is Resumed

All soft plastic MUST be cleaned of food, dried, and stick-on labels cut out. Soft plastics include items such as: plastic bags, frozen food bags, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap (popped!), clean mulch/dirt bags, plastic nut bags, etc. All those plastics will stay out of our landfills and will find their way to a better use.

Soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia at a monthly collection. They are then shipped elsewhere and repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture.

### New Fundraising Opportunity

After the idea of selling Hannaford cards as a fundraiser came up at February’s church retreat, this opportunity has been researched and presented to the Cabinet (see information below). The Cabinet has approved planning for this ongoing fundraiser to see if it is feasible to implement. We would need to see if we have sufficient help to support this endeavor. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please see Fred Doscher, Carol Asher, or Cindy Thompson.

2025 Contributions to Missions (as of March 26th)

Backpacks	\$30
Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross	\$427
Interlakes Community Caregivers	\$30
Habitat for Humanity	\$30
Horton Center	\$30
Hunger Action	\$205
Ministry of Space	\$30
Neighbors in Need	\$30
New Beginnings	\$30
OCWM	\$803
OGHS	\$199
Strengthen the Church	\$30
Deacon’s Fund	\$150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,024</b>

### Are you a Hannaford Shopper? You can help earn cash for the church!

#### The Invite

Hannaford is offering a program for churches to earn money. How? All we do is sell \$100 gift cards to our members and we earn 5% of each card sold! It's EASY!

#### The Plan

We purchase a minimum of 10 cards at \$100 each (\$1000). Hannaford donates \$50 to us. We sell the \$100 gift cards at Fellowship Hour. Cash or check accepted!

#### The Benefit

Our church can make easy money all year round! You can still earn and spend your rewards! If you spend \$50 one week, the credit remains on the card for future use. They NEVER expire!

#### The Need

We need 3 or 4 others to work a Sunday Fellowship Hour each month to sell gift cards. We will have it all spelled out for you on how to proceed. It's EASY!

#### The Possibility

If you spend \$200 each week at Hannaford, the church earns \$10. That's \$520 per year! Now multiply that by 10 families, that's \$5200 a year! That's like having a second Holly Fair! Wow! Now imagine more families joining in!

Interested in helping to make this happen?  
Please contact Cindy T., Janet G., Carol A., or Fred



### Youth Sunday—March 16th

On March 16th the children of CHCC led the worship service from start to finish. They played the prelude and postlude, led the Call to Worship and Gathering Prayer, and treated the congregation to a wonderful rendition of the Good Samaritan. Eight children took part, and after the skit, four young women gave a reflection of how the story impacted them in their lives. Kudos to all our children who shared in the service.



### A Peek Inside a Sunday School Lesson

We all enjoy hearing what the children have to say during the children’s message, but have you ever wondered what they are doing downstairs during the Sunday school lesson?. Here is a peek inside a Sunday school lesson.


For this lesson, teachers Ann Koniszewski and Diane Crawford led the group. The children learned the lesson from Luke 15: 11-32—the story of the Prodigal Son.

The students solved a maze to find the way home for the younger brother and created a craft depicting the father, welcoming the son home with open arms.

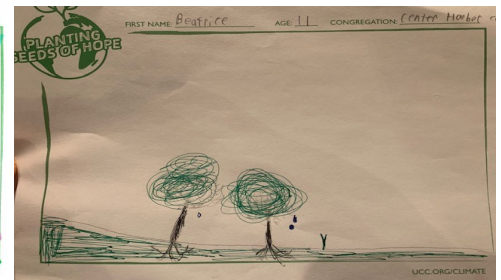
It is hard to believe that there are only five weeks left of Sunday School for the 2024-25 year. It has gone by so quickly, and each week, the children never cease to amaze us with their faith and knowledge. Many thanks to Abby and Ann K who helped with the scheduling for the remainder of the year.



### Climate Hope Art Contest

 School vacation is the Week of April 28th. The preschool will be closed that week and there will be no Sunday school on April 27th or May 4th.

Once again, the National UCC hosted a climate art contest. This year’s theme was “Planting Seeds of Hope”. At right are the entries from our Sunday School.





- 04/03 Janet Nunamacher
- 04/04 Lee Woodworth
- 04/07 Paula Young
- 04/10 Laura Curran
- 04/17 Thais St. Clair
- 04/23 Laurie Burke
- 04/28 Dave Brown
- 04/29 Joe Crawford



- 04/13 Nancy and Chris Stamnas
- 04/27 Joe and Diane Crawford

## 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

### Need an Extra Set of Hands for Odd Jobs? Call Mr. Do It!

Hello my name is Kody St. Clair (aka MR. DO IT)  
I am a **helping hands assistant** living in Center Harbor and available to support a person or business on many levels. I have a valid New Hampshire driver's license and I am very reliable.  
Do you need help with...senior citizen support, such as moving heavy items and shopping; basic spring/fall yard cleanup, garden preparation, and mowing; small trash removal for Center Harbor and Meredith areas or seasonal cottage rental trash pickup; moving; chicken sitting/feeding? Mr. Do It...CAN do it!  
I'm available **Thurs. through Mon. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm**. If interested, please email or call/text.  
**kodystclair30@gmail.com** or **(650) 400-9318**

## Opportunities In Our Community

### Jordan TW Trio Concert



Sunday, April 6th  
2 PM

Bristol United Church of Christ  
15 Church Street

This is a free concert hosted by the BUCC music committee.

### Help is here when you need it.

Join Meredith Altrusa for a FREE informational program presented by the Lakes Region Mental Health Center.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH | 1:00-3:00PM**  
**MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**1 CIRCLE DRIVE, MEREDITH**



Lakes Region  
Mental Health Center



Community Holocaust Remembrance Program  
Thursday, April 24, 2025—5:30 PM

Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC  
18 Veteran's Square



This one-act play, directed by Debbi Finkelstein, will be presented as a dramatic reading of the imagined conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, two young victims of racially motivated violence.

The program is free and open to the public.  
A light supper will be served before the performance.

# Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

## April, 2025

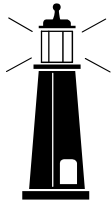
### This month's mission: New Beginnings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Boldface = Church-sponsored events</b>		1 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	2 <b>10 am Lenten Study Group, Parlor</b>  <b>5 pm Missions Mtg., Zoom</b>	3 <b>9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom</b>	4 8:00 pm AA,	5
		6 <b>10 am Worship</b>  <b>11 am Handbell Rehearsal</b>	7	8 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	9 <b>10 am Lenten Study Group, Parlor</b>  <b>4:30 pm Deacons Mtg., Zoom</b>	10 <b>9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom</b>
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>  <b>11 am Handbell Rehearsal</b>  <b>4-6 pm Bowling Party, Funspot</b>	14	15 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen  <b>7 pm Cabinet via Zoom</b>	16 <b>10 am Lenten Study Group, Parlor</b>	17 <b>7 pm Maundy Thursday Service</b>	18 <b>10 am Holly Fair Crafting, Gilpatric Hall</b>  8:00 pm AA	19
20 <b>Easter</b> <b>7 am Sunrise Service, Beach</b>  <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	21	22 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	23	24	25 8:00 pm AA	26
27 <b>10 am Worship</b>  <b>(No Sunday School)</b>	28	29 <b>1:30 pm Books &amp; Bites, Parlor</b>  4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	30			



THE  
CENTER HARBOR  
LIGHT

April 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

## Easter by Emily Pauline Johnson

Lent gathers up her cloak of sombre shading  
In her reluctant hands.  
Her beauty heightens, fairest in its fading,  
As pensively she stands  
Awaiting Easter's benediction falling,  
Like silver stars at night,  
Before she can obey the summons calling  
Her to her upward flight,  
Awaiting Easter's wings that she must borrow  
Ere she can hope to fly—  
Those glorious wings that we shall see to-morrow  
Against the far, blue sky.  
Has not the purple of her vesture's lining  
Brought calm and rest to all?  
Has her dark robe had naught of golden shining  
Been naught but pleasure's pall?  
Who knows? Perhaps when to the world returning  
In youth's light joyousness,  
We'll wear some rarer jewels we found burning  
In Lent's black-bordered dress.  
So hand in hand with fitful March she lingers  
To beg the crowning grace  
Of lifting with her pure and holy fingers  
The veil from April's face.  
Sweet, rosy April—laughing, sighing, waiting  
Until the gateway swings,  
And she and Lent can kiss between the grating  
Of Easter's tissue wings.  
Too brief the bliss—the parting comes with sorrow.  
Good-bye dear Lent, good-bye!  
We'll watch your fading wings outlined to-morrow  
Against the far blue sky.



Joseph Sebastian Klauber, Johann Baptist Klauber, after Johann Wolfgang Baumgartner. *Spring*, mid 18th century, etching and engraving with hand-coloring on laid paper, Alisa Mellon Bruce Fund, Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington .

*From Flint and Feather: The Complete Poems of E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake) (The Musson Book Co., Limited, 1917) by Emily Pauline Johnson. This poem is in the public domain.*