



Conway Village Congregational Church
 “The Brown Church”

The Good News

April 2025

Volume 14 Issue 4



Conway Village Congregational Church 132 Main Street, P.O. Box 333 Conway NH 03818
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Stretch Your Legs and Celebrate!

“**OK everybody! Take a load off ... stretch your legs!**” When developing hikers at the junction of the **Kinsman Ridge and Lonesome Lake Trails**, everyone takes off their packs and keeps their legs extended to prevent cramping. Snacks and water pass around. A sort of celebration begins. You review where you’ve been and consider the climb ahead. Trails through the White Mountains offer different challenges for developing skills. **The Kinsman Ridge Trail** is a special trail on which, “**Are we there yet?**” is the question you must endure. The hike creates a process of shared achievement as climbers seek their ultimate prize, the final summit, **Cannon Mountain**, a 4,000-footer.

We review, ‘**where we’ve been**’, we look at maps of **South and North Peaks of Kinsman Mountain**, both **4,000 ft.** peaks, which brings you to a stay at the Kinsman Pond Shelter. The next day we proceed through “**The Cannon Balls**”, three sub-peaks from west to east, 3,693, 3,660, and 3,769 feet. As you hike each sub-peak, the sky begins to drop into the trees (*a sign you are approaching the summit*). Then the trail drops down to approach the next sub-peak, giving you the impression you are losing ground. The trail can be very wet, tangled with roots, with large, slippery rock faces slowing progress. It is physically and mentally challenging. Then the junction of the **Lonesome Lake Trail**, where we know the final push of Mt. Cannon lies ahead. Do you have the heart and stamina to continue (*.8 miles for 330 ft. elevation*)? First, let’s celebrate!

The journey of the Brown Church of Conway Village is a lesson in persistence. In 2017, the church community was planning a capital campaign, a campaign delayed by the **Covid-19 pandemic** and then staggering losses due to flood damage. It has been an arduous journey. Along the way, there have been losses, gains, obstacles, and successes. It has been slow going, with accompanying ups and downs. Now we are at our “**Lonesome Lake Trail junction**”, a time to ‘**stretch our legs**’, ‘**catch our breath**’, and ‘**look how far we’ve come!**’, when we gather for **Homecoming Dinner, April 11th**.

The Brown Church continues to rewrite the story of food insecurity, promote recovery of sobriety through peer led support, gives away holiday dinners, offers personal counseling and spiritual development, supports local Boy Scout efforts and backs nonprofit community programming, all fueled by our worship experience. **The Brown Church strives to enrich the health, spirit, and wellbeing of the greater Mount Washington Valley.** The final summit is still before us, the raising of capital to reenter our beloved sanctuary.

We remain joyous and hopeful for we know “**suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance develops character**”. (Romans 5:4) It is character-building, (*both for ourselves and for those we serve*), that gives us our purpose, mission, and goal. Let’s get together and celebrate! We deserve it! We’ve come a long way.

love

serve

worship

CHURCH TRUSTEES

It is April, the mud is deep out back, the grass is brown, but the sun is warm. The Christmas trees outside are coming down.

SAVE THE DATE: We will be having a Pot Roast sit down dinner on Friday April 11th 5 - 6:30 PM with a suggested donation of \$15. We are calling it a Homecoming Dinner, letting folks know we are back in the building. **HOWEVER,** there is more work to be needed. We will have the doors to the Sanctuary open so people can look in. We can give tours downstairs if anyone wants to see the work done.

We met with Bergeron Technical Services on March 14th.

We went over the work needed in the Sanctuary and the cedar siding on the front and bell tower. We received a letter from our insurance company giving us a deadline to get the siding replaced to prevent more damage to the building. We will need to get that work done first. Shawn and Kate will contact contractors and obtain estimates.

There are several issues to address in the Sanctuary. The cracked walls need significant repair work. It may make sense to replace all the walls at this time. While this is being done, it will be a good time to re-configure the altar area, which would include extending the raised altar, removal of the groom's room, and adding a passageway from the sanctuary directly into Fellowship Hall. The new doorway will provide two exits from the sanctuary to two different areas of the church building. Heating and cooling systems are needed, and the flooring will be refinished and new carpet will be installed. FEMA covers part of these costs.

We expect the cost for the Sanctuary work and the building siding will exceed the funds that we will have available from the FEMA reimbursement and current recovery funds.

Nancy Divine will be stepping down as a Trustee as of April 1st. The Trustees wish to express thanks to Nancy for her commitment and dedication to the church, for the countless hours she generously gave working for the good of the church community as Trustee Co-chair and Council Member. We especially wish to thank her for her time during the difficult times of COVID and particularly the past fifteen months dealing with the flood recovery work. She will be missed greatly by the Trustees, the Council, and our church family.



we will miss you

Trustee Board

Anne Getchell, John Edgerton, Duddie Andrews, Nancy Irving, & Tom Workman, ex officio member, Treasurer

Homecoming Dinner

Join us for a hearty meal & fellowship

Conway Village Church

Save the Date



Friday, April 11th

5 - 6:30 PM

Pot Roast Dinner

Recommended Donation \$15

Outreach—Food Pantry

The pantry has now been open for over 2 months. Every week more and more of our previous clients return. It's so nice to see their familiar faces again!

It was very challenging completing all tasks necessary to re-enroll in the NH Food Bank! Finally we were able to pick up the Walmart donations, which is one of the services through the NH Food Bank's Fresh Rescue program. These donations are extremely important as Walmart provides the majority of fresh produce and meats to the pantry this time of year. I'm sure our clients are looking forward to the summer months when we receive fresh produce donations from local farms. The pantry will begin purchasing meats and produce from Shaws and Sherman Farm again soon. We are happy to say we have three new volunteers! If you would like to join us in serving our community, please contact Melody in the office.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELP US SERVE THE COMMUNITY!

We could not do it without you!

Melody Bergman

<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 2025 <small>(2 weeks only)</small>	22	38	1,596	23	4	0	5
February 2025	15	26	1,092	16	4	1	5
March 2025	44	72	3,024	45	4	7	9





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.

Food Pantry Wish List

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canned fruit • Pasta • Canned beans • Hamburger Helper • Mayonnaise • Pancake Mix • Ramen Noodles • Canned Beef Stew • Ketchup • Mustard • Pancake Syrup • Canned Tuna Fish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice-a-Roni • Instant Potatoes • Applesauce • Peanut Butter • Jelly or Jam • Tomato Sauce • Soup • Coffee <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">Donations may be made during worship service on Sundays or when the office is open.</p> |
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Call the office
603-447-3851
if you would like to
volunteer at our
food pantry.
Thank you.

Deacons

Deacon's Message

Winter has ended and April's blessings of sun and warmth will welcome a busy schedule for our Community of Faith at the Brown Church. The month begins with the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion on Sunday April 7th, and a Homecoming Dinner, Friday the 11th. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on the 13th, Maundy Thursday on the 17th, Good Friday on the 18th, and culminating with the celebration of Jesus as the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday! Sunrise service will be held behind the church at 5:45 am, to be followed by a **potluck breakfast in Fellowship Hall** - attendees please bring a food of your choice to share. There will be a sign-up sheet at coffee fellowship hour..

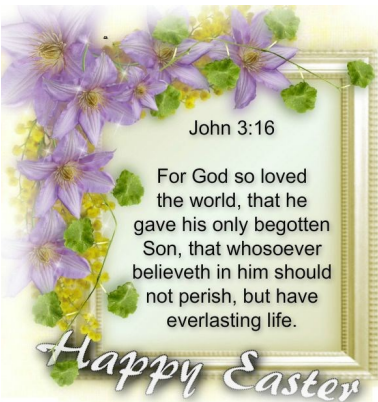
HAPPY
Holy Week



Holy Week services will be held in our Fellowship Hall except the Good Friday Service. We will be celebrating Good Friday service, with the Clergy of the Mt. Washington Valley at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 2521 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH at 6:00 p.m.

We as a Community of Faith now occupy a time of unprecedented "busyness". We are not divorced from living in a rush, run, hurry, 24 hour news cycle, fully filled calendar world. Yet, while we as our Community of Faith both live in a "light speed time" and look forward to a robust schedule for the month of April, we should still use the gifts of the remaining days of Lent to find a time and place to be still and allow for quiet reflection. Perhaps then, we might hear and listen to "The Voice That Runs and Whispers", or simply the "Voice of the Divine", that always calls **us home to be one with It.**

Charles Monaghan, Deacon



Pot Roast Dinner

Friday, April 11th

5 - 6:30 pm

Join us to celebrate the reopening of our church!

Recommended Donation of \$15



PRAYER REQUEST

We are here to lift you up in prayer.

- † Cathy Currier
- † Colleen Albert
- † Elise Keeney & John Edgerton
- † Linda Frechette
- † Alice Spear
- † Nancy Keyes

- † 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
- † Joan Mathurin
- † Family of Mary Chesley
- † Sky Yeaton
- † Kathy Monahan
- † Lewis Busell & Family
- † George & Cynthia Pfender
- † Wendy Novotni
- † John Keator



Fresh Homestyle Meal



**Join us for a free community dinner!
Everyone Is Welcome!!**



Mondays, 4-5 pm

Call office for menu.
603-447-3851

April Birthdays

<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Kristin Burnell  Laura Sorensen  Michael Misiaszek III  Dana Jones  Lewis Busell  Bill Weiss  Megan Jones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Judy Workman  Ciarra McIlarky  Anne Getchell  Suzanne Rancourt
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Thursdays, 1:00 PM

Women's

BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study has just completed the 4th Season of The Chosen. We will now begin a new study in The Story. The Story is the story of the Bible in its own words in chronological order from Genesis through Revelation.

Max Lucado and Randy Frazee describe it as follows: "This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity.

Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace—the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his people culminated in his sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity."

The month of April we will read and discuss The Story of Jesus' ministry through His resurrection. Please Join Us anytime you can. We have a space just for you!

Everyone is Welcome! Easter Blessings,
Judy Workman, Women's Bible Study Facilitator



Men's Bible Study

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

Fridays
8 am

Men's Bible Study meets in the conference Room.
Looking at C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves. All are welcome.
John <'>>>><<<<



HOLY WEEK

We are open for Worship Services in Fellowship Hall!
Service 10:00 AM
Please join us for Coffee Fellowship following worship service!

April 2025 Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 6th – Lent 5th Sunday/Communion

Psalm 126

Isaiah 43:16-21

John 8:1-8

Meditation: “*Casting the First Stone*”

Sunday, April 13th – Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Luke 23:1-25 (*Liturgical Reading*)

Sermon: “*Navigating Harrowing Experiences*”

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Thursday, April 17th – Maundy Thursday- 6:00 p.m.

Exodus 12:1-14

1 Corinthians 11:23-36

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Friday, April 18th – Good Friday – 6:00 p.m.

(at *1st Church of Christ, Congregational, North Conway*)

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Psalm 22

Easter Sunrise, April 20th 5:45 a.m.

John 20:1-10

John 20:11-18

Sermon: “*In the Early Hours*”

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Easter Celebration, April 20th 10:00 a.m.

Isaiah 65:17-25

Luke 24:1-12

Sermon: “*Looking for the Living Among the Dead*”

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Sunday, April 27th – Easter 2nd Sunday of Easter

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Sermon: “*When Jesus Appears to Us*”

Psalm 150

Holy Week

Palm Sunday A liturgy will be performed which will require the participation of everyone who attends (you get a part!).

Maundy Thursday A liturgy of betrayal and desertion will be used to commemorate the beginning of the passion suffering of Jesus at **6:00 p.m.**

Good Friday The Mt. Washington Clergy Association will lead our ecumenical fellowship through the Passion of the Cross at **6:00 p.m.** at First Church of Christ, Congregational.

Sunrise Easter Morning Will begin at **5:45 a.m.** behind the Brown Church in the lower parking lot. A pot-luck breakfast will follow to reward those who rose with the Easter Dawn.

Easter Celebration **10 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall for our regular Easter worship.

April



April showers



2025

Bring May flowers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	2 4:30pm Diaconate	3 1pm Women's Bible Study	4 8am Men's Bible Study 10am Pantry Meeting <u>Office Closed</u>	5
6 10 AM Worship Communion Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	7 4-5pm Dinner Bell	8 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 4:30pm Trustees	9	10 1pm Women's Bible Study	11 8am Men's Bible Study 5-6:30 pm Homecoming Pot Roast  <u>Office Closed</u>	12
13 10 AM Worship 	14 4-5pm Dinner Bell	15 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	16 4:30pm Council	17 1pm Women's Bible Study 	18 8am Men's Bible Study Good FRIDAY Service 6pm <u>Office Closed</u>	19 
20 5:45 am Sunrise Service followed by Pot Luck Breakfast 10 AM Worship 	21 4-5pm Dinner Bell	22 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry 	23	24 1pm Women's Bible Study	25 8am Men's Bible Study <u>Office Closed</u>	26
27 10 AM Worship	28 4-5pm Dinner Bell	29 8:30-11:30 am Food Pantry	30	Sunday Worship via Zoom <u>To access Zoom meeting by Phone</u> Phone Number: 1 646 558 8656 (for audio only) Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300 Password: 589150		