

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org

December 2018

Issue 12



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 1 | Christmas Fair 9-1pm
Santa Lane - Youth Center |
| December 2 | Tree Lighting 6pm |
| December 6 | Pemi Chorus 7:30 |
| December 13 | Pemi Winter Concert 7pm |
| December 15 | Winters Farmers Market 9-1pm |
| December 16 | Children's Pageant |
| December 17 | Senior Breakfast 8:30-noon |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Services 6pm and 11pm |
| December 25 | Merry Christmas! Office Closed |





During our worship service in the month of November, four people have shared about what the church means to them. Each one of them, Stacey Pate, Lynn Bartlett, Amy Tripp and Matt McGonagle spoke from the heart and touched ours. I asked Sue Ross if she'd share what the church means to her and her family. Hearing what those four said, then reading Sue's words, makes me so proud to be a part of the Gilford Community Church.

Hello Gilford Community Church Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! We are in the midst of the season of gratitude and it seemed like a perfect time to THANK all of you for all you have meant to me personally and to our family over these past 20 years. Our family feels loved and supported by each of you. We are lucky to live in this place and we are lucky to have found our way to the Gilford Community Church about 20 years ago. I'm thankful we never left!

Eston and I are grateful for our Gilford Community Church family. We love that you helped us raise our two children, Abby (now 26) and Jesse (now 23). You gave us support beginning way back in the days when Abby and Michael would give the Thanksgiving Sermon. We felt your love for our family and for Jesse during his Appalachian Trail hike and your support of his presentation and his fundraising efforts for Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital. You continue to ask about, and send encouragement to my sister in law as she battles ovarian cancer. I think it's amazing that my brother's family in Oklahoma feels the love from our GCC family.

When Eston and I were married over 30 years ago by a wonderful gentleman by the name of Reverend James Rupert, we made a commitment to each other to grow our faith together and raise our children in a faith based community. That commitment came with finding a balance in our family life, professional lives and pledging and serving our Church and community.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of teaching our youngest children in Sunday School, being involved with our youth group, traveling with Scott, Rick and our youth group on a mission trip to New Orleans, and serving on the Membership Committee and now the Diaconate. Soon I'll be part of the Pastor-Staff Committee. Easton has also served on the Diaconate, the Building Committee and now the Facilities Committee.

We pledge and we give what we can. We know Gilford Community Church is making a difference in our community. We all benefit from the outreach of GCC. We take care of each other. Our donations are necessary for the continuance of our work in this community. And our donations are necessary for us to think about what is the next thing we can do as a church community to make life better for others among us.

I'm proud of the support we show for our youth. The youth in our community benefit from knowing adults who are not in their family. Abby and Jesse have told us about many conversations with Barbara Harris, Warren Hutchins or Mary Flinn over the years. Our kids travelled on Mission Trips with Scott, Judy and Rick. The support from our church family has continued into adulthood. When Jesse ran the Boston Marathon this last year, it was Michael Graham and Brian Mercier who got him to the start in Hopkinton on that cold rainy day in April. Neither Abby or Jesse has ever left Church on a Sunday without one of Cindie's loving hugs!

The youth in our community benefit from coming to the Gilford Youth Center. They benefit from coming to Church, having the opportunity to go on mission trips, and learning who they are spiritually. They benefit by taking part in the Youth Group outings, Confirmation, family day activities, and fundraising efforts at church. Each time we connect with our youth, we are telling them that they matter and that we care for and about them. We give them hope in a world full of chaos. We help them become the adults this world needs. Let's continue to do this important work.

When deciding how much to give, I am reminded of one of the titles of Abby and Michael's Thanksgiving Day Sermons from many years ago: "Choices, Choices, Choices..." We have so many choices each day about how to spend our hard earned money. We live in a time where life moves fast and money seems to move faster. Our family chooses to support the mission of Gilford Community Church and we trust that our Community will continue to be better for it!

I'm thankful for each of you, and for our efforts as a church community. Let us continue to spread God's love!

Gratefully yours,

Sue Ross





New to our church? Would you like to learn more about it? Would you like to join the church?

Come join Rev. Michael Graham and others to learn about our church and what we can offer you.

Watch this space for notice of our next Meet and Greet, held on a Sunday after worship service in conference room A.

The Village Newsletter is a

monthly publication of

Gilford Community Church

19 Potter Hill Road

Gilford, New Hampshire 03249

(603) 524-6057

gccoffice@metrocast.net

www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org

Rev. Michael C. Graham, Pastor

gcc@metrocast.net

Deb Birch, Administrative Assistant

gccoffice@metrocast.net

Carolyn Ames, Music Director/Organist

AJ Coppola, Choir Director

Scott Hodsdon, Director of Youth & Family Programs

gccscott@metrocast.net

Rick Edson, Treasurer

rick.edson99@gmail.com

Carl Carder, Financial Technician

gccfinance@metrocast.net

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 to 2:00 pm

December Birthdays

- 2 Twyla Rose Wixson,
Barbara Hauck, Joseph Shea,
William Stephenson
- 4 Brenda Stowe
- 5 Morris Harrison
- 6 Adeline Wixson, Harry Woodley
- 7 Alexander Bailey, Britta Mueller
- 8 Carl Carder, Carol Howard, Phil Carter
- 10 Dick Peterson, Kathy Lacroix
- 11 Walter Flinn, Connie Russell
- 12 Peter Allen, Rick Hopper,
Sarah Cook, Zach & Anya Arenstam
- 13 Maxwell Sawyer
- 14 Andrew Pike
- 16 Ethan Roys
- 17 Chris Leggett, Penny Franciosi
- 18 Jill Clark, Nicholas Bailey, Brynn
Blackwelder, Nils Babcock
- 19 Kristie (Greenlaw) Goehausen, Beth DeMeo
- 20 Jayne McAllister, Derek Tomlinson, Lee
Miller
- 21 Janet Haley
- 23 Hannah Wixson, Nick Arenstam,
Dianne Lauffer
- 25 Lori Erickson
- 26 Holly Vieten

- 27 Joseph Wernig, Kent Baron
- 28 Joan Stephenson
- 29 Paula Ellsworth, Elias Arvidson

December Anniversaries

- 06 Hans & Kathy Dahll 1980
- 10 Chris & Thais Whitehead 2010
- 16 Carroll & Sandra Stafford 1961
- 17 Opal & Mathew Roys 2000
- 22 Chet & Skye Devarney 2007
- 24 Tom & Jennifer Boucher



Did we miss your birthday? Omit your anniversary? Please let the church office know so we can hap-





As the months get colder, the choir family gets warmer. You may now know this, but those green choir robes are lined with soft synthetic fur! What a perfect reason to join the choir!

December is a special time for music in the church. We are excited to bring you the songs of Advent, featuring new favorites and Christmas classics. We're looking forward to singing at the Christmas Eve service, and there will be a lot of special music at the 11:00 service, as well.

If you are interested in singing some holiday favorites, it's the perfect time to join the choir! Pop by a rehearsal at 6:00 on Thursdays in the Sanctuary, or see Carolyn or AJ after a Sunday worship service.

Musical venues coming up are the wonderful annual Christmas concert, put on by the Pemi Chorus under the direction of Will Gunn. The concert will be held on Thursday, December 6th. at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Tickets are by donation.

The Carter Mountain Brass Band will present their concert on Sunday, December 2nd. From 3-4 pm at the United Methodist Church. Our very own May Stewart and music friend Nathan Shower will be participating. Tickets are at the door.

Musically Yours,

Carolyn & AJ



We are in the process of updating our church directory. Please let us know if there are any changes or if you would like to be added.



Thank you to all that brought me a meal during my recovery. On October 17th. I had knee replacement surgery for the second time, and this time it really worked! Those great meals helped me to heal quickly. Thank you so much!!

Betsy MacHaffie

Christmas Food Baskets



Please sign up to participate Sunday, December 2nd or Sunday, December 9th.

Dinner – Grocery gift certificate to buy ham will be provided by GCC.

Place the following items in a small round plastic laundry basket.

5lb Bag of Potatoes
1 Jar Pork Gravy
2 Cans Whole Kernel Corn
2 Cans Sliced Carrots
2 Cans Yams
1 Can Cranberry Sauce
1 Jar Applesauce
2 Boxes Instant Pudding Mix – Chocolate or Vanilla
1 Box Dessert Mix – Brownie Mix, Cookies or Cake mix w/can frosting
1 15oz Can Sliced Pineapple
1 64oz Apple or Cranberry Juice

Note: The above listed sizes are for reference only. Ounce sizes may vary per product purchased. Shopping store brand labels is accepted and recommended. If unable to provide the entire basket of food, please feel free to donate any of the items on the list.

Please bring your donations to the church no later than Sunday, December 16, 2018.

Contact Molly Notkin with any questions: mpnjuggler@gmail.com or 832-9178. Thank you for your generous participation!



The **deadline** to submit for the December Newsletter is

Friendly Kitchen is **Friday, December 28th**. Our volunteer crew serves lunch at the Salvation Army in Laconia at noon on the 4th Friday of each month. To help serve or contribute food to the



meal, please sign up downstairs on the bulletin board. For this month's menu they need donations of American Chop Suey and brownies. (The crew provides green beans.) Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts for December



12/2	Kitchen Committee
12/9	Care & Concern
12/16	Facilities Committee
12/23	Membership Committee
12/30	Church Member Sunday

We would love to have members of our church community commit to volunteering **once a year** to help host coffee hour during the scheduled "Members of the Church" days. You can host it with your family, a friend, or join forces with another family! Please contact Jessi Fleck for more information or to get yourself onto the coffee hour schedule.

728-5671 or jfleckjr@metrocast.net

Many thanks!!



Church Attendance for November

4	211
11	198
18	225
25	187



The first Sunday of every month is **FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY** and members/non-members are invited to bring donations to church with them. **Food Pantry Bottle juice, cookies and canned pasta (e.g. Beef-A-Roni, Spaghetti-os.**

Please make sure item has not expired.

For **New Beginnings:**
(Please label these donations "New Beginnings" and leave in the church foyer):

- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Hair conditioner
- Body wash
- Hand soap (preferably the size to have at sink)
- Facial tissue
- Feminine pads & tampons
- Baby wipes & diapers size 4-6
- Canned soup & saltine crackers
- Other non-perishable foods



Thanksgiving Baskets – Thank You!

Outreach Committee would like to thank church members and friends for your participation in our annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution. Because of the abundant response, over 60 baskets were given to individuals and families in the community, as well as Belknap House, Carey House, New Beginnings and Salvation Army. Outreach and all the recipients are truly grateful for your generosity. Thank you, thank you, thank you!





Nov 30, 5-7:30

December 1, 10-12

We are always in need of volunteers for this event.

Please contact Scott if you would like to help.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 2, 4:30-6pm

Our young children, and their families are invited for a Christmas Party on Dec 2nd, 4:30-6pm at the Gilford Youth Center. We are having a potluck so please bring a dish to share.

We will also do a yankee swap with the kids, \$5-\$10 gift. RSVP Scott if you plan to attend.



Annual Tree Lighting Service Sunday, December 2nd, 6pm

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season with our Annual Tree Lighting Service. This service is filled with beautiful music, youth readers and performers

Christmas Pageant December 16th

We are excited to announce that this year's pageant will be held on December 16th, during service.

If you would like your child to be in the pageant, please contact Scott



THE UGLY SWEATERS RETURN 12.16.18



Birthday Party for Jesus! Sunday, December 23rd Following Children's Time



Each year, our Flower Committee decorates our sanctuary in keeping with the joyous Christmas season. You are invited to purchase a poinsettia (\$10.00) for EACH loved one or couple whom you would like to recognize, and their names will be in the Christmas Sunday bulletin on December 23rd.

Your donations will also help to cover the cost of poinsettias delivered the week before Christmas to area shut-ins.

Attached is my check for: _____

Given by: _____

PLEASE PRINT AS NEATLY AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

In loving memory of **OR** *To celebrate the life of* (Please circle which one)

In loving memory of **OR** *To celebrate the life of* (Please circle which one)

In loving memory of **OR** *To celebrate the life of* (Please circle which one)

The church office will accept your completed form. It is expected that payment be made with the form. Make your check payable to the Gilford Community Church and please indicate that it is for poinsettias. Thank you for your gift!

DEADLINE TO ORDER: December 16th.



A Note from the Finance Committee:

Tax Reform and Charitable Giving

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act went into effect on January 1, 2018. While many taxpayers may not be itemizing deductions under the new law, many opportunities for charitable giving remain.

- **New Income tax brackets:** The new law lowers most individual tax rates. Because donors may be paying less in taxes, they may have an opportunity to give more to the organizations they care about, like the Gilford Community Church.

- **Appreciated Stock:** Give appreciated securities to the Gilford Community Church and avoid capital gains tax.

- **IRA gifts:** If you are 70 1/2 or older, the new tax legislation leaves the IRA Charitable Rollover provision unchanged. A gift directly from your IRA to the Gilford Community Church helps to fulfill your required minimum distribution and is not considered taxable income.

- **Accumulate/Bundle Gifts:** With the standard deduction increased to \$24,000 for joint filers and \$12,000 for individual filers, some may benefit from lumping two or more years worth of donations in a single year to in order to exceed the standard deduction and itemize deductions.

- **Cash Gifts:** For those that continue to itemize, the law increased the 50 percent of adjusted gross income limitation for cash contributions to 60 percent and retained the 5 year carryover for unused deductions. Donors who itemize deductions may consider increasing their cash gifts.

Here are some ideas for the best gift types for charitable giving in 2018 in light of the new tax law:

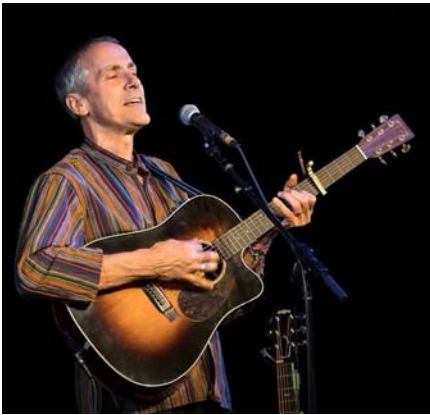
- **Name the Gilford Community Church as a beneficiary of retirement plan assets:** These assets remain taxable when distributed to a loved one but are distributed tax-free when given to the Gilford Community Church.

- **Establish a charitable gift annuity:** Make a gift to the Gilford Community Church and receive a life income, receiving some of the annual payments free of income tax.

- **Establish a donor advised fund:** Pool several year's donations in a Gilford Community Church donor advised fund, deduct the entire contribution in the year of the gift and then make grants to the Gilford Community Church and the organizations you care about in future years.

- **Gift Life Insurance:** It may be possible to give an existing life insurance policy or to make the Gilford Community Church a beneficiary of all or a part of a life insurance policy.





Benefit Concert Enjoyed by All!


On Saturday, November 3rd, a concert was held at GCC featuring folk singer, **David Roth** to benefit **Lakes Region Mental Health Center**. The sponsor groups, Music and Outreach would like to thank those who helped make this event happen, by spreading the word, making or selling tickets, donating and serving refreshments, setting up, cleaning up and especially attending. People found David's music dynamic, reflective, funny, poignant, but most of all hopeful and reported they are looking forward to a return performance.

Total proceeds of \$1061 from ticket sales and refreshments was sent to this vital non-profit agency, which holds a special place in the life of our congregation.

Mental health services in the Lakes Region were few and far between in the 1960s. This issue was of major concern for Dr. George "Pete" Harris, a Gilford pediatrician who was also a long-term member of Gilford Community Church. (His wife, Barbara still attends regularly.) He recognized the need for mental health care among his patients and their families. With the vision and perseverance of Dr. Harris and other champions for mental health, the Lakes Region Mental Health Center opened its doors in 1966. Since that time, they have seen tremendous growth in the number of patients and changes in the services and supports provided. Today, they are proud to provide mental health care to almost 4,000 people in the Lakes Region. *Treatment works and recovery is possible.* These and other details about their services are available on their website at www.genesisbh.org.

December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1 Christmas Fair 9-1pm</p> <p>Santa Land Youth Center</p>
<p>2 10am Worship Communion Food Collection Tree Lighting 6pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm Pemi Chorus 7:30</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 10am Worship Hymn Sing</p>	<p>10 Senior Momentum 11:30</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6-7pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Winters Farmers Market 9-1pm</p>
<p>16 10am Worship Children's Pageant</p>	<p>17 Senior Breakfast 9:30</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Adult Book Study 10:30am Chancel Choir 6pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 10am Worship</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Services 6pm and 11pm</p>	<p> 25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Adult Book Study 10:30 Chancel Choir 6-7pm</p>	<p>28 Friendly Kitchen</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>					

