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From the Pastor:

My very first "From the Pastor" in the Newsletter of October 2019, shared the symbolism from the Wizard of Oz. For some reason, this came to my mind as I was wondering what to share in this September/October Newsletter. So, I'd like to begin by once again paraphrasing the meanings that come from within this classic movie.

Dorothy, the Lion, the Scarecrow, and the Tin Man were on their way to Oz to 'find something of themselves' that they felt was missing...for Dorothy, it was her way back home, for the Lion it was courage, for the Scarecrow it was a brain and for the Tin Man it was a heart; however, this unlikely foursome did not find out about themselves once they reached their destination, but rather, they found out about themselves during their journey as they traveled down the yellow brick road together. They helped each other in overcoming their fears and hurdles. They started caring about each other and stopped focusing solely on themselves. They truly journeyed together, accepting each one as they were, helping each other towards the realization that what they thought they lacked was really within them all along.

This truth continues to stay with me and touches my heart as I believe we are on a journey together...a journey that leads us closer to whom God created us to be. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, just like Dorothy and her companions. And isn't part of the journey helping our companions see what is already within them? Plus, the journey is much more adventurous and fun, fulfilling and meaningful as we travel it together.

And like the journey to Oz, it's not always easy. There are obstacles, no, not fields of poppies or flying monkeys, but concerns, disagreements, exhaustion.

CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Thank-you Note

☺ Our thanks to Jeannie Burden & Nancy Read for the cleaning of the Baptist Meetinghouse for the month of July. Our thanks also to Jeanne Burden for the cleaning of the Baptist Meetinghouse for the month of August.

Please contribute your notes of praise and gratitude by contacting the church office (284-6151 or sandwichchurch@gmail.com) with your request and it will be printed in the next newsletter.



Happy Anniversary to the following couples !!!

September 4 Rich & Janet Cocchiaro

**September 27 Richard & Daphne
Frentress**

October 2 Tom and Anita Larson

October 2 Greg and Jackie Berry

October 8 Hayden & Mary Hillsgrove

October 21 Warren & Deb Hoffman

If you have a Birthday or Anniversary during this time and you do not see it listed here, please

Welcome to Birthday Corner
If you see one of these people
please wish them a very Happy
Birthday !!!

September 1 Sue Bowden

September 4 Susan Davies

September 14 Janet Cocchiaro

September 14 Marshall Davis

September 14 Jane Quimby

September 16 James Norman

September 27 Rich Cocchiaro

September 23 Martin Glenday

September 28 Kathryn Birch

October 8 Amy Brown

October 8 Daniel Reidy

October 10 Ty Bryant

October 15 Daphne Frentress

October 17 AJ Birch

October 19 Kyle Birch

October 19 Lucy Glenday

And the evil one (portrayed of course by the wicked witch) would like nothing better than for us to fall apart when these obstacles come...but we have the living God on our side to give us strength, understanding, compassion and vision as we continue to move forward together.

There's a lot happening right now in the life of the church. The steeple project became much larger than expected, the new Ministry Data Team is looking at all the ministries and events we're involved in, seeking guidance on what to put aside for now, and what we are to forge ahead on. We can't keep adding events and ministries and expect to "do it all" and do it all well. And then there is the Facility Data Team gathering information to look at the possibility of transitioning to one church building rather than continuing to support two beautiful, historical church buildings.

Let us continue to meet each other where we are, uplifting and encouraging one another as we go, by the grace of God, traveling towards being the people and the church that God continues to call us to be.

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" Proverbs 19:21.

Blessings, Your Traveling Companion
Pastor Deb

LADIES AID: It's still a CRAFTING Year – and we are getting closer to our Craft Fair on December 6!

We still have supplies available in the Ladies Aid cabinet at the MMH for making stretch bracelets, bracelets / necklaces with clasps, and glass etching using some glass ornaments – or your own wine bottles (see the pretty dragonflies etched in the picture?) B has also been leading us in making some quilted potholders to sell and Lisa G showed us a clever kitchen towel/potholder to sew. Come to our meetings for some creative fun. All ladies are welcome – bring a friend along! Don't forget to bring your lunch – or for September, bring a salad to share.



† Ladies Aid Meetings & Crafting Sessions †

Thursday, September 11, 2025 11:30AM @ Berry Castle (12 Gilman Road, Meredith)

ALL ARE INVITED – Ladies & Gentlemen!!!

Program: Annual Salad Luncheon; Ladies Aid Planning Convener: Lois M;

Hostesses: Jackie B & Jennifer R Secretary: <__>; Devotions: Deb K

Thursday, October 9, 2025 Crafting @ MMH 11:15AM

Convener: <◇>; Hostesses: Wanda J & Lisa G Secretary: Deb H; Devotions: Paula L

Dress A Girl Workshops -- Sewing &/or Cutting We have enjoyed our months with Dotty B making and sewing dress kits in the Hodge Building at the fairgrounds. Now we'll be back downstairs at the **BMH**. Whether you sew or not, we can use you for 2 hours per month for the Dress A Girl

Although all worship is special, here are some highlights on what is coming up in September and October.

Rather than a Sermon Series this Fall, here are some of the topics we'll be exploring:

Sept. 7 The Cost of Being a Disciple

Sept. 14 Mary and Martha

Sept. 21 Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

Sept. 28 Do Not Worry



Sunday, October 5, we will celebrate **Worldwide Communion**. If you have something from another part of the world that you could share by displaying it on the table that day, please bring it in either 30 minutes before worship begins or drop it off at Pastor Deb's office earlier that week and it will be placed on the communion table that Sunday.

Laity Sunday is October 19. Traditionally, this day is when some people (usually in leadership roles) of the church lead worship. It is my hope that we don't just have certain people leading worship but that it will be an all-inclusive time of worship where EVERYONE has a part!



All Saints Day Worship will be on November 2nd. This is the time when we will be remembering those who went from this part of our eternal life to the next.



Trustees' Meeting

Thursday September 11th

Thursday October 9th

Both are at 4:00 P.M. (MMH)

Board of Outreach

Tuesday September 2nd

Tuesday October 7th

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday September 9th

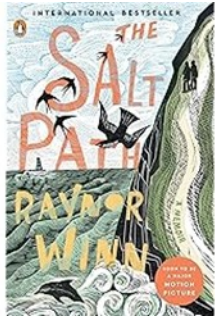
Tuesday October 14th

Council Meeting

Tuesday October 21st

at 6:30 P.M. (Zoom)

Worshipping together is just part of being a community of faith. It is important to be involved in a small group so to get to know one another and be able to uplift and encourage one another. Here's what is offered this Fall:



The Book Group will be starting the book “The Salt Path: A Memoir by Raynor Winn. Following is some info on the book:

The true story of a couple who lost everything and embarked on a transformative journey walking the Southwest Coast Path in England.

Just days after Raynor Winn learns that Moth, her husband of thirty-two years, is terminally ill, their house and farm are taken away, along with their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and

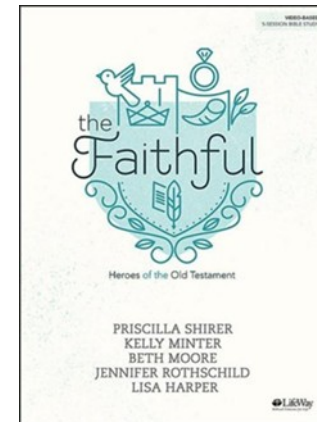
impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, through Devon and Cornwall.

Carrying only the essentials for survival on their backs, they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea, and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter, and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable and life-affirming journey. Powerfully written and unflinchingly honest, *The Salt Path* is ultimately a portrayal of home—how it can be lost, rebuilt, and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways.

After we read this book, we will gather to discuss it on Tuesday, October 14th at 10:30 AM at the Baptist Meetinghouse. Please bring a bag lunch so that we can break bread together after our discussion.

Bible Study, The Faith: Heros of the Old Testament

This is a 5-week study that we will begin on Wednesday, September 17 at 6:30 PM on Zoom, and continue meeting on Wednesdays until Oct. 15. This study explores crucial moments in the lives of five Old Testament figures—Esther, Gideon, Malachi, Nehemiah, and Hosea. Through their stories, discover how God uses the lives of ordinary people for His glory and the good of His people. Strengthen your faith as you walk alongside these larger-than-life figures who all chose to obey God no matter the circumstances.



If you're interested in this study and would like me to order your book for you. I'm happy to do so. The cost is about \$16. Blessings, Pastor Deb

The Choir Always Welcomes New Singers.

They practice with the Choir Director/Organist, Judy English





to participate. Prayer shawls and blankets can be knitted, crocheted, quilted, or the felt kits can be used to cut and tie...there are many options. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 at Jackie Berry's home and then of course work independently on creating these prayers shawls and

blankets. If you need directions or address to put into your GPS, please call Jackie at 603-279-0450.

Connect with the NEUMC

The New England Annual Conference is inviting us to join them on their online space where we can come together in worship, justice, spiritual formation, and vibrant community life.

Welcome, in today's connected world, our presence on social media offers a dynamic way to stay informed, inspired, and engaged with the work of the Conference. By following and subscribing to our official channels, you'll gain access to real-time updates, worship resources, stories from around the Conference, justice initiatives, and much more.

Connect with us online:

- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/NEUMC](https://www.facebook.com/NEUMC)
- **Instagram:** [instagram.com/ne_umc](https://www.instagram.com/ne_umc)
- **Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/newengland-umc.bsky.social>
- **YouTube:** [youtube.com/@newenglandconferenceumc2273](https://www.youtube.com/@newenglandconferenceumc2273)
- **TikTok:** [tiktok.com/@newenglandumc](https://www.tiktok.com/@newenglandumc)
- **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/company/108008070](https://www.linkedin.com/company/108008070)

And of course, our official website remains your trusted source for Conference news and resources: www.neumc.org

Let us move forward together grounded in grace, led by the Spirit, and connected in community.

In Christ's service,

Benjamin Musasizi

Director of Communications

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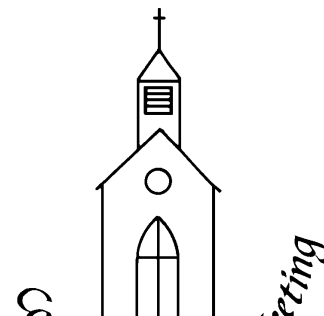
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will be held on Sunday, September 7, 2025, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of approving or denying funding in the amount of \$17,500 to rebuild the base of the steeple, which is the final phase of the Baptist Meetinghouse Bell Tower Project.

Background: The final phase of our multi-year major capital improvement project on the Baptist Meetinghouse Bell Tower is in its final phase. As previously briefed, when work on the tower resumed in the spring of 2024, our contractor Tony Hibbard and our consultant Stan Graton detected and uncovered serious rot in the area supporting the steeple as well as in the steeple itself. Due to the deteriorated condition and the safety issue it imposed, the steeple was removed for the winter and sealed against the weather just prior to Thanksgiving. Due to these developments, the cost to remove the steeple and seal the top for the winter was covered in the initial scope of work; however, the damage to the base, and the repair cost was a “to be determined” once the base was unsealed in the spring/summer 2025. At the 2025 Annual Church Meeting held in January, the church membership approved the budget, which included the cost to rebuild and install the new steeple, which requires the rental of a special crane to lift the new steeple. The cost was \$35,000, of which the Alfred Quimby Trust generously awarded \$20,000, with the remaining cost covered in budget (fundraising, donations and investments). The new steeple is being built on the ground and will be installed and secured to the base in one piece.

Our contractor unsealed the capped base and conducted an inspection to determine the extent of the damage and rot. As you probably have seen on the lawn and parking area over the last couple of months, many rotted timbers were removed from the base in preparation for new framing and steel brackets to support the new steeple. The cost for materials, labor and equipment for this final phase is \$17,500. The scope of work includes removing rotted beams and rebuilding the base of the steeple. They will be sistering LVL’s (Laminated Veneer Lumber) approximately five feet below the spire and above the bell cradle. These engineered wood beams are used in construction for load-bearing applications like headers and joists, providing higher strength and reliability compared to traditional lumber. They will replace the two feet of rotted beams that will be the mount for the spire itself. They will also build a new box frame to replace the rotted one at the base of the spire mount. The inner and outer framing will be tied together with LVL’s to ensure the original beams will not move and will be secure.

Respectfully,
Board of Trustees
Moderators



In September, the Ministry Data Team will be providing a Questionnaire about our current events and ministries, 14 in all. Over the past several years, we've added ministries like Dress a Girl Around the World, the Prayer Shawl Ministry and providing lunch twice a month at Isaiah 61 Cafe. After a while, it becomes obvious that "we can't do it all" and do it well. So, we will be providing a questionnaire and asking that you prayerfully consider each item and mark down what you feel led for the community to continue and what we may need to let go of, at least for now.

We need to remember that to everything there is a season. Most ministries and events do not last forever, but are meant to be shared and offered for a particular time and purpose.

There will also be a section for you to make suggestions on modifications that might be helpful and to bring to our attention anything we may have missed. This is a process. We plan to hand out the questionnaires on Sunday, Sept. 7 and again on the 14th, offering a time to complete them after worship. We'd like to have them collected by the 21st and share results on the 28th.

It will be very important to realize that just because people may answer the questionnaire with a majority of discontinuing a ministry or event right now, doesn't make it any less valuable to our community of faith. It means it served a purpose and perhaps we just don't have the support we need to continue it at this time.

Change is always difficult, but we need to prayerfully consider what to focus on and put our energies into as a community of faith.

Participation in completing this questionnaire by all who are actively involved in this community of faith will be greatly appreciated!

The Ministry Data Team
Betsy Adriance, Jackie Berry, and Pastor Deb

The Community Church of Sandwich, NH is on Facebook and YouTube.

Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/sandwichfederatedchurch has our latest information and links to our Virtual Services. If you "like" and "follow" the page you will get information when it is posted there.



The Church videos are on YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCVGiY-RGGNTInPY4Q8YyI8g and have several years of videos for your enjoyment.

We are defining "ministry" as having an opportunity to share our faith in God, in word and deed, by using our Spiritual Gifts and God Given Talents.

If, in completing this survey, you are not aware of some of the Events listed, please just leave those blank and we will know you are not aware of them.

Please circle yes or no for each question.

Event	Do you consider this a ministry?		If Yes, do you believe there is enough support to continue?		Do you believe this event should continue?		If monies are donated, collected or charged for this event, what is the money used for?
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Awareness Day/Festival	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Card Ministry	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Crop Walk	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Dessert Auction	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Dress a Girl Around the World	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Easter Breakfast	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Fair Parking	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Gbarna Mission	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Ice Cream Social	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Isaiah 61 Café	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Prayer Shawl	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Quilt Raffle	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Shrove Pancake Supper	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Thanksgiving Baskets	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

Please see other side to make suggestions/comments.

If you have any suggestions for any of the events, please print them here by first naming the event and then making your comment/s. For instance, if there's a modification to an event that you believe would make it more of a ministry and it's something you would like to see happen, please share.

Also, if we've missed an Event of the church, please add it here with any comments.

Event

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:00 A.M. Outreach (B)	3 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	4 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 12:30 P.M. Prayer Shawl at Jackie Berry's home.	5 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	6
7 10 A.M. Worship Communion Sunday Online Worship Available	8	9 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	10 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	11 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid (M) 4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M & Zoom)	12 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	13
14 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available 4:00 P.M. ABC Meeting at Camp Sentinel	15	16 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 A.M. Ministry Data Team (B) 6: 30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)	17 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	18 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry	19 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 A.M. Dress a Girl Workshop	20
21 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	22	23 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	24 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)	25 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry	26 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	27
28 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	29	30 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>2 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>12:30 P.M. Prayer Shawl at Jackie Berry's home.</p>	<p>3 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p>	4
<p>5 10 A.M. Worship Worldwide Communion</p> <p>Online Worship Available</p>	6	<p>7 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>11:00 A.M. Outreach (B)</p>	<p>8 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>9 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M & Zoom)</p>	<p>10 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p>	<p>11 Sandwich Fair</p>
<p>12 10 A.M. Worship</p> <p>Online Worship Available</p> <p>Sandwich Fair</p>	<p>13 Sandwich Fair</p>	<p>14 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10:30 A.M. Book Group (B)</p> <p>6: 30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)</p>	<p>15 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>6:30 P.M. Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>16 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry</p>	<p>17 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10AM-Noon Dress A Girl Workshop</p>	18
<p>19 10 A.M. Worship Laity Sunday</p> <p>Online Worship Available</p>	20	<p>21 6:30 P.M. Church Council (Zoom)</p> <p>Pastor at Retreat House</p>	<p>22 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>Pastor at Retreat House</p>	<p>23 Pastor at Retreat House</p>	<p>24 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>Pastor at Retreat House</p>	25
<p>26 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available</p>	27	<p>28 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p>	<p>29 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p>	<p>30 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry</p>	<p>31 9-2P.M. Church Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)</p> <p>Happy Halloween!</p>	

**P.O. Box 267
Center Sandwich, NH 03227**



Newsletter

If you would like to receive your church newsletter via email send a message to:

sandwichchurch@gmail.com
requesting that you be placed on



Church Office Hours

Wednesday & Friday

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday