November / December 2026

THE FLYER

Newsletter of the Community Church of Sandwich, New Hampshire

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Office Hours and Contact Information

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From the Pastor

In attending a Women of Faith Conference in Philadelphia, PA many years ago, an analogy that one of the presenters, Sheila Walsh, used in her inspirational talk was the journey taken in the classic movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. And although the Women of Faith Conference is geared towards 'women', this analogy is for everyone. Here is my attempt to paraphrase Sheila's message:

Dorothy, the Lion, the Scarecrow, and the Tin Man were on their way to Oz to 'find something of themselves' that was missing…for Dorothy, it was her way back home, for the Lion is 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 always stayed with me. It touched my heart as I believe we are all on a journey…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 the journey much more adventurous and fun, fulfilling and meaningful when we travel it together?

I had written the above paragraphs for the first newsletter article I submitted as your new pastor in October of 2019. At that time I said, "I am so looking forward to traveling with you." Well, now I've been traveling with you for about seven years. As we have continued to travel this Yellow Brick Road together, there have been changes where we've needed to be flexible (like the time of the pandemic).

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CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Thank-you Note

☺ Our thanks to Tracy & Steve Ripkey for the cleaning of the Baptist Meetinghouse for the month of September and our thanks also to Tony Gasbarro for the cleaning of the Methodist Meetinghouse for the month of October.

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.

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

November 1 Jackie Berry
November 9 Saundra Bicknell
November 16 Betsy Adriance
November 16 Susan Steeves
November 21 Bob Michael
December 4 Bob Bryant
December 10 Carol Farnsworth
December 15 Dennis Lauricella

A Message From Judy

"Dear church family, I am writing this to tell you that I am planning to retire as organist and choir director at the end of this year, my last Sunday being December 27th. Also, Iris and I are going to split playing the Sundays in November and December.

Thank you for your love and support for me during these past seven years that I have served the Community Church of Sandwich. I have loved being a part of this church family, musically, spiritually, and socially.

Heather and I will still be attending church here on a regular basis. We love our church family too much to leave all together. This is our home!

Love, Judy"

Happy Anniversary to the following couple!!!
December 19 Ty and Kim Bryant

If you have a Birthday or Anniversary during this time and you do not see it listed here, please contact the church office and let us know. Thank you

Continued from page 1

There have been times of sickness and of great loss in our community. There have been joyful times of celebration and fellowship.

As we once again approach the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, may we meet each other where we are. May we love each other as we are, whether we are feeling a bit lost like Dorothy, less than contemplative like Scarecrow, hiding our heart like Tin Man, or just plain fearful like the lion, may the love of God that unites us, help us accept and uplift one another as we travel towards being the people and the church that God is forever calling 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,
Pastor Deb

Retirement Announcement Honoring Our Choir Director and Organist, Judy English

With hearts filled with gratitude and appreciation, we announce the retirement of our beloved Choir Director and Organist, Judy English after many years of faithful and dedicated service to the Community Church of Sandwich.

For seven years, Judy has faithfully shared her musical gifts, and love of worship with our congregation. Through countless worship services, hymns, anthems, and special occasions, her music has enriched our spiritual lives, lifted our hearts, and helped create a meaningful and inspiring worship experience.

Judy's years of service reflect not only musical ability but also a deep commitment to our church, our congregation and the ministry of music. Week after week, her dedication, dependability, and willingness to serve have been a tremendous blessing to our church family. The music she has provided has become a cherished part of our worship and our church's history.

As Judy enters this well-deserved season of retirement, we extend our heartfelt thanks for her faithful service, dedication and love. Although we will miss her presence at the organ and piano, Judy assures us that she will still be a part of our worshipping community.

Please join us in celebrating Judy's retirement and expressing our sincere appreciation for all she has contributed to our church after worship on Sunday December 27th. We wish Judy abundant happiness, good health, peace and many wonderful blessings in this new chapter of her life.

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints' Day.
During our 10 AM time of worship, we will have the opportunity to light candles in memory of our loved ones. Please extend a personal invitation to those in the community whom you know have experienced a loss. We will also be sharing in Holy Communion.

Sunday, November 8th is Part 1 of 2 of our Stewardship Series. On this day we will be focusing on how we use our time and talents. We will have a guest speaker, Katherine Thorndike, telling us about the Habitat for Humanity build- plan right here in

Sunday, November 15 is Part 2 of 2 of our Stewardship Series. On this day we will be focusing on how we use our material possessions…our food, clothing, money, etc.

Thanksgiving Sunday November 22nd, we will be sharing what we are thankful for in our abundance.

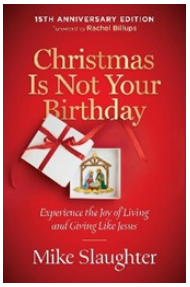
Hanging of the Greens Worship Sun. November 29th @ 10 AM. This is the first Sunday of Advent. We will prepare the church together for the Advent Season and Christmas and share the symbolism behind all the decorations… Why the greens? The poinsettias? The tree? The Advent wreath? There is a meaning to it all. This will be a worship time where we all share in the liturgy and decorating of the sanctuary.

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

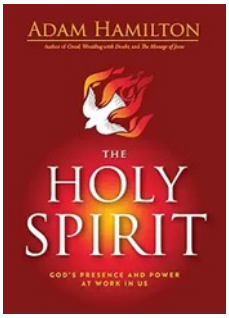
Our Facebook page www.facebook.com/sandwichfederatedchurch has our latest information and links to our Virtual Services. If you "like" and "follow" the page you will get information when it is posted there.

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

Please feel free to share these links with your friends anywhere in the world who would be enriched by our services and like to help spread His Light.



Our Advent Worship Series this year will be based on **"Christmas Is Not Your Birthday"** a book by Mike Slaughter, who reminds us to expect a miracle and to explore Jesus' wish list.



Bible/Book Study Continues on the Holy Spirit: Using the book authored by Adam Hamilton entitled The Holy Spirit God's Presence and Power at Work In Us, we will continue this study by discussing Chapter 3 on Nov. 10, Chapter 4 on Nov. 24 and Chapter 5 on December 22, all on Zoom at 6:30 PM. It's not too late to join in. You can purchase the book, read the first 2 chapters and begin with us on Chapter 3. Just let Pastor Deb know so she can send you the Zoom link.

The Sandwich Singers will be performing at the Methodist Meeting House on Sunday, December 13 at 6 PM. We welcome the sharing of their gift of music during this most precious season!

Blue Christmas Gathering will be offered on Sunday, December 20 at 4 PM.

We will gather in the front of the sanctuary, sharing some scripture, prayer, memories, and placing a blue Christmas ball on the tree representing the losses we are experiencing.

Church Meetings

Trustees' Meeting
Thursday November 12th
Thursday December 10th
at 4:00 P.M. (MMH) (Zoom)

Board of Outreach
Tuesday December 1st
at 11:00 A.M. (BMH)

Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday November 17th
Tuesday December 8th
at 6:30 P.M. (Zoom)

Council Meeting
Tuesday December 15th
at 6:30 P.M. (Zoom)

Important Updates and Deadlines:

2027 Budget Committee Update

The board of trustees has appointed the 2027 Church Budget Committee: Tony Gasbarro, Deb Kumpf, Jennifer Rowan, Teresa Tennyson, and Wendy Wallace. Work on the 2027 budget will begin shortly. All boards and committees must submit their budget inputs **on or before Tuesday, December 1** to our treasurer, Wendy Wallace (blessedandbalancedbk@gmail.com), and assistant treasurer, Deb Kumpf (deb.kumpf603@gmail.com). Thank you for submitting your inputs on time!

2026 Annual Report Submissions

Annual report submissions are due **no later than Tuesday, December 15** to Jennifer Rowan (jlwjhr67@gmail.com). Please submit your financial reports as soon as possible after statements are received and reconciled. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Rowan.

2027 Annual Church Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Church Meeting on **Sunday, January 31, 2027** following our worship service. This is a vital meeting in the life of our church, offering us the opportunity to:

- Learn about our 2026 accomplishments and discern where God is leading our church and community.
- Review budget reports, ask questions, exercise stewardship, and vote on the 2027 budget.
- Vote for new officers and board/committee members.
- Gather as a faith community to celebrate God's faithfulness, address any concerns or joys, and build unity.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these dates and for your ongoing dedication to our church community. ~ Jennifer Rowan, co-moderator

Veterans Day Annual Dinner

Annual Veterans Day Dinner will be on Wednesday, November 11th from 4:30-6:30 PM at Methodist Meeting House. Hosted by Dotty Burrows and the 4-H Families. Veterans and children under 6 are free. For all others…A $9/dinner donation is appreciated to cover cost. Please help us to say thank you to our Veterans and help us all to recognize all they have done for us.

Sandwich Singers Concert

Sunday December 13th, at 6:00 P.M.
The Sandwich Singers will hold a concert of seasonal music at the Methodist Meetinghouse.

Come get in the spirit!!!

Happy Holidays from Joisse Rumary

LADIES AID – PAST and especially FUTURE

At our October meeting, we started the sign-ups for the Chowder luncheon. There was a good discussion about our mission, and should we re-evaluate this and the work we do in the community. We also discussed that over the last couple of years we have gravitated toward being a group that focuses mainly on making crafts in preparation for our sale during Christmas in the Village. Is this what we want going forward?

We would like ALL women of the church (and community – bring a friend!) to come and discuss our future direction and plans at our November 12 meeting.

In the immediate future, we have the upcoming Ladies Aid Chowder Luncheon and Craft Fair during Christmas in the Village. We need help! Please attend the November meeting or contact Jackie Berry to help with cooking, kitchen or serving.

† *Upcoming Ladies Aid Meetings* †

Thursday, November 12, 2026 **10:30AM @ MMH**
Work on soup packets and VERY IMPORTANT discussion!
Convener: *Deb K;* Hostesses: *Deb H & Jen Q;* Secretary: *Jackie B;* Devotions: *Lisa G*

Saturday, December 5, 2026 **MMH 10:00AM – 2:00PM**
Ladies Aid Chowder Luncheon (11AM-2PM) and Craft Fair (10AM-2PM)
Everyone enjoy the soups and stock up on crafts for presents!

Thursday, December 10, 2026 **MMH 9:00AM**
Christmas Cookie Plates!
Plan to bake up a storm! We will also need card-writers. Please get any names of those needing plates to Jennifer Rowan. Jennifer & Jackie B will be Conveners.

Dress A Girl Workshops -- Sewing &/or Cutting

Dress A Girl Workshops -- Sewing &/or Cutting: We are back downstairs at the **BMH**. Whether you sew or not, we can use you for 2 hours per month for the Dress A Girl Around the World mission. Complete kits– including instructions – are always available for pickup in the BMH.

Update: Our group based in Meredith is now associated with a Dress A Girl group in Maine, which also sends skirts (older girls), shorts (boys) and other needed items. Ask me if you want the patterns for any of these.

Upcoming Workshop Dates (10AM-Noon @ BMH): **Nov 20; Dec 18; Jan 15**

Facilities Data Collection Team Update

October 2026

Did you know?

- The Baptist Meetinghouse was built in 1792 and completed in 1793. (Photo pre-1926)
- The Methodist Meetinghouse was built in 1825.
  - ➡ Both buildings are over 200 years old!
- Since 1918, the two (2) congregations have been served by a single pastor.
- Until 1997, there were three (3) sets of financial books: Baptist, Methodist and Federated, when the congregation was UNIFIED.
- We have spent approximately $300,000 on EACH building over the past 10 years, including capital improvements, repairs and utilities.
  - ➡ While we have had generous donations and grants, along with our church's funds, is this the best use of our resources in the future?

Since our founding early last year, our team of five (5): Pastor Deb, Jennifer Rowan, Tony Gasbarro, Peter Pohl and Deb Kumpf, has been meeting to research and consolidate information relating to our church community supporting the physical facilities we use and maintain. This includes financial support, ownership status, space in each building and grounds, and the utilization of that space, expectations of upcoming required maintenance, and considerations of needs for each building to accommodate all church functions.

While we still have work to do, we are at the point where we feel we could use some experienced guidance; therefore, we have submitted to the Budget Committee a request for $750 for a consultant from Wesley Development Group of the United Methodist Foundation of the Northeast. (Note: this is 1/3 of the cost – the New England Conference and the Foundation will provide matching grants.) They have expertise in leading congregations and communities through similar situations. We expect to contract with a consultant early in 2027, with most of the intense work in the March – May timeframe. Included will be meetings with church leadership, congregation and Sandwich community leaders.

Our goal is to discern whether building consolidation would strengthen ministry, reduce operating costs, improve stewardship of property, and better serve the congregation and surrounding community.

We will provide more updates as our process continues. Thank you for keeping our work in your prayers.

Isaiah 61 Café has a list of clothing needs for the people who they serve. If you have some extra clothing, that someone else could use (even if it's gently used), please bring it to the Church (MMH) collection box by Sunday, November 21. Steve and Lisa Girard will be bringing it to the Shelter by Thanksgiving. Thank you for considering this ministry.

ISAIAH CAFÉ NEED LIST (10-7-26)

LADIES

SNEAKERS- sizes 8 – 9 ½

THERMALS- LEGGINGS- M - L - XL

COATS- L -XL - XXL

LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS M - L - XL

T-SHIRTS M – L- XL

SWEATPANTS L – XL- XXL

SWEATSHIRTS & HOODIES L – XL – XXL

UNDERWEAR 4 – 5 – 6 – 7

MENS

JEANS 32 – 34 ALL LENGTHS

SWEATPANTS L – XL – XXL

SWEATSHIRTS L – XL – XXL

T-SHIRTS L – XL

LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS L – XL – XXL

THERMALS- L – XL – XXL

SNEAKERS- 10 – 11 – 12

COATS L – XL – XXL

BOXER BRIEFS (ONLY) M – L – XL

"I needed clothes and you clothed me, …. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". **Matthew 25:36,40**

Message from the Deacons

Thank you so much for your kindness! Your candy donations made a big difference—they helped us celebrate the Sandwich Central School Halloween costume parade in the afternoon and welcome trick-or-treaters around town in the evening. We're also thankful to the costumed candy givers who opened the church doors so everyone could enjoy our beautiful altar and organ from the steps. We'd love more volunteers to help hand out candy next year—please think about joining us!

We're so grateful to see everyone gathering for fellowship in the MMH hall after morning worship! If you'd like to join in to help or host, feel free to bring just one simple treat—like fresh fruit, store-bought cookies, cut veggies with dip, or anything else you'd love to share. One dish is plenty since friends can team up, so no one needs to prepare a whole spread. We're happy to reimburse you up to $25—just send your receipt and the church reimbursement form to Joisse. Chat with any deacon to pick a date that works for you!

The proceeds from the 2026 Dessert Auction were donated to the Lakes Region Food Pantry in Moultonborough, NH. The donation of $4,512.00 was used to support summer programs for children. Pictured in the photo are: the pantries, Assistant Director Cathy Baxter, the Director Amy Norton, and Jackie Berry, our Outreach Director.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 10 A.M. Worship Communion Online Worship Available	2	3 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	4 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study Zoom	5 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 12:30 P.M. Prayer Shawl	6 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	7 1:00 P.M. Virginia Jones-Newton Celebration of Life
8 10 A.M. Worship Guest Speaker Kathy Thorndike Online Worship Available	9	10 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Holy Spirit Study	11 Veterans Day 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. Dinner (M)	12 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:15 A.M. Ladies Aid 4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M & Zoom)	13 Joisse Vacation 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	14
15 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	16	17 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6: 30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)	18 Joisse Vacation 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study Zoom	19 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry	20 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	21
22 10 A.M. Worship Thanksgiving Online Worship Available	23	24 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Holy Spirit Study	25 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study Zoom	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	28
29 Advent 1 Hanging of the Greens 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available	30					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 11:00 A.M Outreach (B)	2 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study	3 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 12:30 P.M. Prayer Shawl (Jackie's House)	4 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	5
6 Advent 2 10 A.M. Worship Communion Online Worship Available	7	8 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6: 30 P.M. Deacons (Zoom)	9 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study Zoom	10 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 4 P.M. Trustees Meeting (M) & (Zoom)	11 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	12
13 Advent 3 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available 6:00 P.M. Sandwich Singers (M)	14	15 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Council Meeting Zoom	16 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study Zoom	17 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry	18 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	19
20 Advent 4 10 A.M. Worship Online Worship Available 4:00 P.M. Blue Christmas	21	22 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Holy Spirit Study	23 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	24 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 10 A.M. Worship Moravian Love Feast Online Worship Available Celebrating Judy after worship.	28	29 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B)	30 9-2 P.M. Church Office Hrs (B) 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 6:30 P.M. Upper Room Study Zoom	31 10-4 P.M. Pastor's Office Hrs (B) 10 - 2 P.M. Isaiah 61 Café Ministry	1 Happy New Year	2

"B" = Baptist Meetinghouse; "M" = Methodist Meetinghouse

Community Church of Sandwich
P.O. Box 267
Center Sandwich, NH 03227

Newsletter

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

sandwichchurch@gmail.com
requesting that you be placed on *The Flyer* email list.

Church Office Hours

Wednesday & Friday

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

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.