

December 18, 2024

BROOKSIDE
Congregational Church



The Brookside Bridge

Keeping You Connected

The church office will be closed from December 25 - December 30 at 9:00 am. The next Bridge newsletter will be emailed on Tuesday, December 31.



Minister's Message

This joyous season of Christmas has been wonderful. As we anticipate Christmas morning, I hope you can attend the remaining three worship services offered through Christmas. On Sunday, our focus will be on Mary, the mother of Jesus. Her story begins with her mother and father, Anne and Joachim. I love to tell this story!

On Monday, Dec. 23rd at 7:00 pm, our Blue Christmas service focuses on the people we love who are no longer with us. Please bring neighbors, family members, and friends to this candle-lighting service.

On Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm, join me, the Brookside Choirs, and the Nottingham Brass, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Lessons and Christmas Carols remind us of the true meaning of this season. Everyone, including children, will receive a candle to light during the singing of Silent Night.

Each year, we love our glimmering candle lights shining in the darkness, reminding us that Christ's Light is powerful.

O Come All Ye Faithful!!

Sincerely,
Rev. Laura

Upcoming Christmas Services

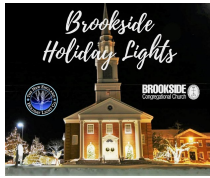
Blue Christmas: Monday, December 23 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday after Christmas: Sunday, December 29, at 9:00 am, **ONLINE** service only.

Central High School Food Pantry

We will be collecting non perishable food for the Central High School food pantry through the end of the month.



Christmas Lights

It's not too late to donate lights in honor or memory of someone. Gift acknowledgment cards are available and make a thoughtful gift. Forms are available in the narthex.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency

Fund is one of the UCC's special mission offerings.

The **Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Thanks to your generosity, last year the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.9 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families. Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who've devoted their lives to serving others.

*"...AND AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO THEM AND
THE **GLORY OF GOD** SHONE AROUND THEM..." LUKE 2:9*



Christmas Drive for Elementary Schools

The Mission Ministry has decided to collaborate with Webster and Jewitt Elementary schools next month to help the kids who attend those schools and their families. We are having a socks and book drive. Please bring new children's socks and books to church and drop them off at the designated boxes. The target age of the children is between 5 and 10 years old. They are hopefully going to be placed at the narthex and near the offices. We will be extending the drive through January.



Open Flower Dates in January

We have open flower dates on Sunday, January 6 and 26. If you would like to donate flowers for worship, please reach out to [Sarah Merrill](#).

UKAMA 2024 Appeal

The Ukama Partnership is a church to church prayer partnership between the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ and the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. **Brookside** has been in UKAMA relationship with **Sakubva Church** in Mutare, Zimbabwe since 1996, praying for one another, communicating by letters, Facebook and email. We have hosted visiting delegates and had opportunity to go to Zimbabwe twice in 1997 and 2010. Through the Ukama Partnership, we have understood that "hama" or 'family' in Christ knows no boundaries or borders.

The Ukama Mission Group of the NHC/UCC has launched an appeal to assist the UCCZ to purchase food and seed for its members. The 2024 Ukama Partnership Appeal focuses

on Food Security for our Hama in Zimbabwe through a shared project of the UCCZ and the NHC/UCC UMG.

Brookside's appeal will start on Ukama Sunday, October 20 and go through early January 2025. Checks can be made to Brookside Church or to NHC/UCC with the notation: *Zimbabwe Appeal* on the memo line. Funds will be transmitted periodically through the Conference office as travelers go to Zimbabwe or wire transmissions are deemed safe.

An Invitation to join the Brookside Choir

Worship is an important part of Sunday service at Brookside. We are grateful for our current choir members and musicians who are excited to work on musical selections under the leadership of our Music Leader, Jordan Gravel. We also want to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to join this inclusive and music-loving community. The choir rehearses on Sunday mornings before service from 8:30-9:30 am. If you have any questions about joining, contact Jordan at jordangravel@gmail.com.



After Worship Fellowship

Please join us after Sunday worship for Fellowship! Following indoor worship, we meet in Fellowship Hall. It's a great way to get to learn more about the happenings at Brookside and build relationships with your fellow Brooksideers. All are welcome!



Send In Your Prayer Requests

Please remember to send in your prayers for our Sunday service. (joys and concerns) Email your request to admin@brooksidecc.org or call the office at 669-2807.

Gals On The Go

Join us for an informal fellowship for members and friends of Brookside on the **first Tuesday of the month at 11:45 am** at the Granite State Lunchbox, 1750 Elm St., rear entrance. Come enjoy lunch, fellowship, and discussion.



No Green Bananas

This group of retired Brookside men meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9 am** at the Granite State Lunchbox, 1750 Elm St., rear entrance, to enjoy breakfast and discussion.



Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Please consider a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund so that Rev. Laura can assist our members and friends facing critical financial needs.

Supporting Brookside Congregational Church

Offerings and pledges can be mailed to the Church office at the address below. If you would like to give online, please click on the button below.

[Donate Here](#)



Do You Need Medical Equipment?

Did you know that Brookside has a Medical Equipment Closet? There are crutches, canes, shower chairs, and more, available for use by anyone who needs them. Borrow for short-term or long-term use, keep as long as you need to. Contact the office (603-669-2807) for more information.

*****Currently we are not accepting donations.**

BROOKSIDE CALENDAR

Thursday, December 19th
6:00 pm Advent Bible
Study, via Zoom

Sunday, December 22nd
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal,
Sanctuary
10:00 am Worship Service,
Sanctuary

Monday, December 23rd
7:00 pm Blue Christmas,
Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24th
9:00 am No Green Bananas,
Granite State Lunchbox
5:00 pm Christmas Eve
Service, Sanctuary

**Wednesday-Friday,
December 25th - 27th**
Office Closed

Sunday, December 29th
10:00 am ONLINE
SERVICE ONLY!

Visit our Website

Brookside Congregational Church | 603-669-2807 | 603-668-9041 Fax | www.brooksidecc.org

STAY CONNECTED



Brookside Congregational Church, UCC | 2013 Elm Street | Manchester, NH 03104 US

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