

January 22, 2025

BROOKSIDE
Congregational Church



The Brookside Bridge

Keeping You Connected



Minister's Message

Dear Brookside Friends,
Jesus gives us a glimpse into his foundational guidance from one of the pivotal prophets of old, Isaiah. We quote Isaiah's words during the Advent and Christmas seasons. 500 years before the birth of Jesus, he promises the birth of a Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, and Light of the World. His words remain a guiding principle for the Jewish community escaping captivity and oppression.

This Sunday, in a small synagogue near Nazareth, Jesus stands in the pulpit and quotes Isaiah saying, "I have come to bring freedom to the captives, sight to the blind, and liberation to the oppressed." These three are at the heart of his ministry, and as his followers, the heart of ours.

Please join me as we hear these words and ponder the ways that we can walk in the light of Christ moving forward.

Sincerely,
Rev. Laura



Open Flower Date

We have an open flower date on Sunday, February 2. If you would like to donate flowers for worship, please reach out to [Sarah Merrill](#).



Call to Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Manchester, New Hampshire will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary and via Zoom. See link below.

This meeting is called for the following purposes:

1. To receive and act upon the budget and the reports of its minister and officers.
2. To elect officers and ministry members for the forthcoming term.
3. To consider and transact other business as it may legally come before the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith Tourigny
Clerk

Link for Zoom Meeting:
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3595622094?pwd=U2RFZmV2cnFORG1Zcms0ZFJ5Wk5qQT09&omn=89992741294>

Meeting ID: 359 562 2094

Passcode: 2013

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 26th, we will celebrate the 2024 year and follow that up with our Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary at the end of our service time. In an effort to make it “easy” to do this transition, we would like to encourage anyone who feels so inclined to bring a snack to share. If you wish to bring a snack, you can simply drop it on a table in the Narthex before the service that day. This is NOT a full on pot luck, but snacks would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!!

2025 Pledge Campaign Update

Greetings, Brookside family & friends!

The current pledge total for the 2025 Campaign is \$125,090.00! That means we are \$34,910.00 away from our goal of \$160,000.00. A great big thank you goes out to all those who have made a commitment to support Brookside, together we have reached 78% of our campaign goal. If you are considering making a financial contribution, it isn't too late

and your generosity could enable us to “reach new heights”, which would be truly amazing!

Don't miss out on your opportunity to be part of this exciting 2025 Brookside Pledge Campaign! Send in your pledge form, contact the office, seek out one of the Stewardship ministry members or donate online.

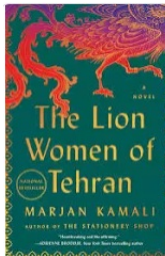
Thank You!!

Women's Retreat July 7- 9

Adelynrood Retreat & Conference Center, Byfield, MA

Rev. Laura has found a wonderfully affordable location for a women's retreat just 45 minutes south of Manchester. One or two-night stays are available. We are planning to arrive on Monday, July 7 at 11 am, and spend the afternoon enjoying the grounds. Room check-in is at 3 pm. Check-out is Wednesday by 11 am. A shared room with 2 beds would be \$137/per person, per night which includes 3 full meals, snacks, coffee, and tea. A private room is \$164/night.

Here is a link to the photo tour <https://www.adelynrood.org/phototour/>. It's a beautiful 14-acre campus developed in the early 20th century by landscape architect and early member of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, Deaconess Mary Potter. Her design vision of “indigenous plantings, a naturalized setting and simplicity” remains evident in the gardens and grounds. Features include paths through five wooded acres, a guided meditation walk called the “Stations of Creation,” a stone labyrinth, and many gardens. Bicycling and the beach are close by. A deposit is required to hold the dates. If you would like to be included, please **RSVP to dtrombley@tds.net by February 1st** letting her know if you want one or two nights, and a shared or private room.



Rev. Laura's Spring Book Group - Save the Date

On **Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 pm** the "Brookside Bookers" will be discussing the book "The Lion Women of Tehran". Join us for a fascinating discussion led by Rev. Laura. To register please send your name and email to the office. The Zoom link will be sent to registered participants the week of the discussion.

Thrift Shop Call Out

We have recently experienced an influx of requests for warm clothing and coats and there is an immediate need for inventory to cover what we anticipate will be a continuing need as we progress through the cold weather. The most needed items are:

- Men's coats, warm shirts, pants/jeans, gloves, hats, boots (small, medium and large)
- Children's clothing and coats -especially preteen and teen -boys clothing is especially needed
- Twin-sized comforters, kitchen utensils, silverware, and umbrellas

Please check your closets and if you have any of these items that are still in good condition and you are willing to part with them, we will gladly find a new home for them.

Our **drop-off hours are during Thrift Shop operating hours** , Tuesday through Saturday, 9-1. Questions can be directed to Denise Forest at denfor@comcast.net

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.

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

Sunday, January 26th
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:15 am Annual Meeting, Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 28th
9:00 am No Green Bananas, Granite State Lunchbox

Sunday, February 2nd
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 4th
11:45 am Gals on the Go, Granite State Lunchbox
6:00 pm Christian Formation

Sunday, February 9th
8:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 11th
9:00 am No Green Bananas, Granite State Lunchbox
5:30 pm Building & Grounds, via Zoom
6:30 pm Stewardship, via Zoom

Visit our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED



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