



# THE MEETINGHOUSE

Nelson Congregational Church  
830 Nelson Rd.  
Nelson, NH 03457

NOVEMBER 2023

Volume 40 Issue 8



250 YEARS OF NELSON MINISTRY

## 250 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Join in celebrating 250 years of ministry in Nelson! At the first town meeting, in 1772, the early settlers voted to build a meetinghouse to serve both town and church, and to secure a minister. Both things were accomplished in 1773, when the Rev. James Treadway held services in a small log meetinghouse. Though the Nelson church did not officially vote to incorporate until 1781, this year we joyfully celebrate 250 years since the first Christian church service was held in Nelson.

Our church historian Bert Wingerson researched this early history. Bert writes, “The first town meeting called in the name of his Majesty the King of England was held in 1772 in the house of Breed Bachelder. It was voted to build a meetinghouse and secure a minister as was essential to the establishment of a new settlement. Although records are scarce, they do show that the first minister in 1773 was the Reverend James Treadway. The meetinghouse was to be 30 feet long and 25 feet wide, built on the lot that had been set aside. It was finished the following summer, in 1773. The small, crude, log building served the needs of both town and church for 15 years, until a larger number of settlers could meet the cost of building a larger meetinghouse.”

On Dec. 2, we will gather at Nelson Church at 4 p.m. to decorate the church at our Hanging of the Greens event and then at 5 pm we will welcome friends from the community to join us and to recognize this auspicious occasion. Members of the Nelson Town Band will play Christmas music, birthday cake and cider will be served, and we will close the gathering with carols and the lighting of our Christmas tree for the season. We hope to see you there!



## TUESDAY TEA

Tuesday Tea will be November 7 at 10 am and will be hosted by Jan Perry. We look forward to all those who wish to join us for tea and conversation! Tea & coffee provided. You may bring a goodie to share.



## OPEN HOUSE PIE AND COFFEE

A special event honoring and thanking the veterans and volunteers in the Nelson community is planned for Saturday, November 11th from 10:00 AM until Noon. A variety of pies will be served along with coffee and other beverages. We will observe a moment of silence at 11:00 AM to commemorate the WW1 armistice. Please join us for a time of fellowship in the spirit of community. Spread the word - ALL ARE WELCOME!

## SOCIAL JUSTICE APPLICATIONS

In 2019, the Nelson Congregational Church created the Garrett-Larsen Social Justice Fund, in honor of the 19-year ministry of Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen in the wider Nelson community. The fund is offered to individuals or nonprofits in the Monadnock region that demonstrate a passion for social and environmental justice, a plan to advance that cause, and a need for funding.

In 2022, grants were awarded to Project Home, a nonprofit that helps asylum seekers, both individuals and families, in the Monadnock region; Hundred Nights Shelter in Keene, to support the construction of its new facility; and Linda's Closet in Keene, which assists women in achieving career goals and responds to emergencies in the community.

Any individual or nonprofit group with a strong tie to the Monadnock region is invited to apply in writing. For 2023, a total of \$2250 will be awarded. Recipients will be notified within four weeks of the November 30, 2023, deadline.

To receive an application form and details on the process and criteria for applying, email [nelson.church.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:nelson.church.clerk@gmail.com), or call the church office, 603-847-3280. The guidelines and application are also available at [nelsonchurch.org/social-justice-fund](http://nelsonchurch.org/social-justice-fund).

## CALENDAR

**NOV 5 WORSHIP 9:30am**

**NOV 7 TUESDAY TEA  
10 am**

**NOV 11 10 AM PIE &  
COFFEE COMMUNITY  
HELPER THANK YOU.**

**NOV 12 Worship 9:30  
ANNUAL MEETING  
11 AM**

**NOV 19 WORSHIP 9:30**

**NOV 26 WORSHIP 9:30**

**DEC 2 HANGING OF  
THE GREENS 4PM**

**DON'T FORGET:  
NOVEMBER 5 is daylight  
Savings turn your clocks  
back before you go to bed  
Saturday night.**



## OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

A flurry of miscellaneous activity. The Operations Committee is finalizing the 2024 budget proposal after reviewing it with people at the October Council meeting. Thanks to Marty French, the invasive burning bushes on both sides of the church have been removed and will be burned this winter. We may have (again) located someone to build and install a new railing out front, fingers crossed. The Community Annual Giving campaign is getting ready to launch.

## THANK YOUS

A very big thank you to Marty French for taking time out of his busy schedule and using his equipment to remove the burning bushes around the church. He has disposed of them to a burn pile for burning this winter.

Last month we received a surprise PayPal donation from two hikers. The Monadnock Sunapee Greenway goes right by the church on Log Cabin Rd and we are happy to be a rest and water stop, and offer restrooms if the church is open. Here is their sweet note: "This donation is made by two Monadnock Sunapee Greenway backpackers (Karl and Rob). As we walked into town, one of your members told us we could get water and use your rest facilities this morning (9/24). We very much appreciated this kind gesture."



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

### HANGING OF THE GREENS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Please join us at 4pm to decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season. The Nelson Town Band will be playing carols while we decorate. Refreshments of cake and cider will be available following the decorating and to celebrate our 250th year of ministry. After refreshments we will gather outside around our Christmas Tree and sing a few carols and light our tree.



## "THE CHOSEN" SERIES

The Community Church of Harrisville & Chesham invites members of the wider community to join them for a weekly screening of the TV series "The Chosen" in the Church Hall at the Brick Church in the center of Harrisville. We will meet every Tuesday evening from 6 to 7:30 starting on October 17 and continuing through December 12 (Halloween excepted). Each session will allow time for viewing and a brief discussion following. You are encouraged to bring a bag supper.



NOV 4 Gwyneth Tolman

NOV 7 Jody Degrenier

NOV 21 Trisha Jones

NOV 28 Judi Lang



NOV 6 Peter Smith &  
Joy Birdsey-Smith



# PRAYER REQUESTS

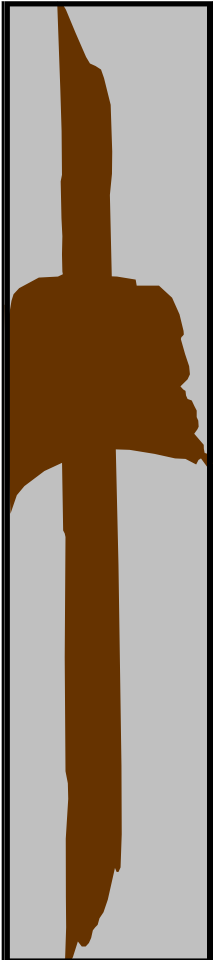
We hold in our prayers: The Lothrop family at the passing of Rick; Pat Steeves

We also pray for families and friends seeking to heal divisions, those in our community struggling with addiction and mental health, our service men and women, and front-line workers.

(All requests will remain on the prayer list for 2 months. Please email or call the Church Office to be added to or removed from or remain on our Prayer List.)

## *Meetinghouse*

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