

August 19, 2025

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**BROOKSIDE**  
Congregational Church



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## The Brookside Bridge

*Keeping You Connected*

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### Minister's Message

These dog-days-of-summer are the halfway mark between Easter and Christmas. Our lectionary reading this week is a healing story about a woman who has been crippled by back pain for many years. The weight of her experiences and the heaviness of life are evident in her bent-over posture. Jesus sees her entering the synagogue and invites her to come near.

Come near my friends, this Sunday. Bring whatever joys and sorrows you feel, and allow Jesus to see you and help you stand up. We all need help these days. Release your responsibilities for just one hour, and join us for worship at 9:00 am. Kids are always welcome!

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Laura

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### Worship Time

On Sunday, September 7, we return to 10:00 am worship.

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**BROOKSIDE**  
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### Call to Special Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of Brookside Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Manchester,

New Hampshire, will be held August 24, 2025 10:15 am in the sanctuary and via Zoom. A Zoom link will be published in The Brookside Bridge.

The purpose of the Special Meeting to discuss the funding of fire suppression system & architectural design work for life safety improvements.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith Tourigny

Ellen Smith Tourigny  
Clerk

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3595622094?pwd=U2RFZmV2cnF0RG1Zcms0ZFJ5Wk5qQT09&omn=81968695519>

Meeting ID: 359 562 2094

Passcode: 2013

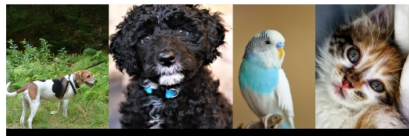
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### Staff Notes

Please join us to say goodbye to **Jordan Gravel**, our Music Leader, on Sunday, August 31. We appreciate the grace he brought to the position as an interim Music Leader. Plan to welcome our new Music Leader, **Michelle Jaques**, on Sunday, September 7.

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### *Blessing of the Animals*

### Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, August 31

Join us at 9:00 am for the Blessing of the Animals. Our service will be held outdoors by the Manning House Porch. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Blessings will be given by Rev. Laura Biddle. All pets and people are welcome and the service will be

held indoors if it rains. "Animals are a special part of our family and bring us so much love and joy," explained Rev. Laura. So, bring your friends – canine, feline, and beyond – and join us as we celebrate all creatures great and small!" The service will include songs and prayers, and then people will be invited to bring their animals forward for individual prayers of blessing.

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### Generations of Faith Opening Pot Luck -Sunday, September 7

Join us after the service for a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall and an unveiling of our new mural in the youth room.

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## AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

### "Heart of the Matter"

Join us Saturday, September 20th from 5:00pm – 7:30pm for what is sure to be a wonderful get-together for our church community. Enjoy a delicious meal by Brambleberry Farm & Catering with specially paired wines and live music by Carleton Page.

A time to reconnect and be energized as we enter a new season and a very exciting time for Brookside. Last year's event proved to be truly magical, what a great opportunity to invite family and friends to experience this evening under the stars as we mingle in the Manning House and on the beautiful grounds that abut this historic space.

Tickets are \$40.00 per person and can be purchased by sending a check to the office or you can order online by clicking the link below. The deadline for purchasing tickets is September 12th. Seating is limited to 40 - don't delay!

See you on the 20th!!

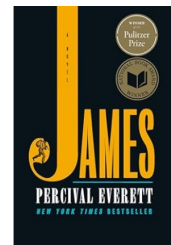
Please click on the link below to order your tickets.

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/85BGH9A8E53BC/checkout/WEEGWLNIN7P7W2QQNSU7JB4R>

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### Rev. Laura's Fall Book Group - Save the Date

On Thursday, October 23 at 6:00 pm the "Brookside Bookers" will be discussing the book "James" by Percival Everett. 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 book group.



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### Zimbabwe Update:

On Thursday 7 Friday of last week 25 churches participated in packing supplies to be sent to our Ukama partner churches in Zimbabwe (Brookside is partnered with Sakubva Church and sent 4 boxes of school/office and household supplies).

Hi Friends,

Well, it wasn't the smoothest of container situations, but it's off! And here are the stats compiled one of the many required commercial invoice and customs declarations forms! We sent:

- 20 boxes of athletic supplies
- 20 bicycles
- 112 boxes of books
- 193 boxes of clothing
- 153 boxes of household goods (some were labeled bedding or personal care or whatever, but for the invoice, it is now household goods....)



- 189 boxes/items of medical supplies (likely more than 189, this includes crutches and canes, some of which may not have been counted )
- 5 pieces of music equipment
- 17 boxes of office supplies
- 134 boxes or items labeled as school supplies (including desks, chairs --which counted as 1 item-- and other classroom items, etc.)
- 71 boxes of sewing/sewing machines (and boy, were some of those heavy!)
- 24 boxes of shoes
- 38 boxes/items labeled tools
- 21 boxes of toys
- 9 boxes of yarn

Woohoo! That's quite an accomplishment!

The cargo is expected to be loaded on the vessel CMA CGM Verdi out of New York by Friday, 8/22.

It is expected in Beira in early November. I generally track the ship and let you know when it hits Beira, Mozambique where it stays for a few days awaiting licenses and more documents and when it gets to Mutare Dry Port for inspection. The tricky part is that often they change cargo ships once or twice!

I will let you know when the Beira and Mutare milestones are reached.  
Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Connie



## Strengthen the Church

Brookside will be collecting donations for The Strengthen the Church Offering during July and August. STC Offering furthers the work of our conferences and national UCC as we work together to strengthen / renew existing congregations, fund leadership development and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting National Ministries.



Holy One,  
Thank you for the many ways we find connection in being church together. Whenever we feel alone, remind us of how we are a part of your vast creation. Let us find a sense of playfulness and joy in knowing our place in your world. May our joy turn to abundance as we share with one another resources that lead to the flourishing of all people. Come, Holy Spirit, and bless us we pray, Amen.



### 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!

### Good Samaritan Award

The 29th annual Good Samaritan Award presented by PCS (Pastoral Counseling) is scheduled on October 9, 2025, 5-8pm at the Derryfield Country Club. **This year Brookside's own Calley Milne is one of the GSA Honorees.** We hope many are able to attend to support Calley as well as the mental health work done by PCS. Individual tickets are available by calling PCS at 603-627-2702 or on the website by using the following link <https://pcs-nh.org/gsa-ticket>

*PCS Mission: to promote healing and wholeness of mind, body and spirit through psychotherapy, consultation, and education, making mental health services available, without barriers, to all who need them*



### 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](mailto: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, August 24, 2025**  
9:00 am Worship,  
Sanctuary  
10:00 am Special Meeting,  
Sanctuary

**Tuesday, August 25, 2025**  
9:00 am Staff Meeting,  
Rev. Laura's Office  
9:00 am No Green Bananas,  
Granite State Lunch Box

**Sunday, August 31, 2025**  
9:00 am Worship,  
**OUTDOORS**  
10:00 am Fellowship

[Visit our Website](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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

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