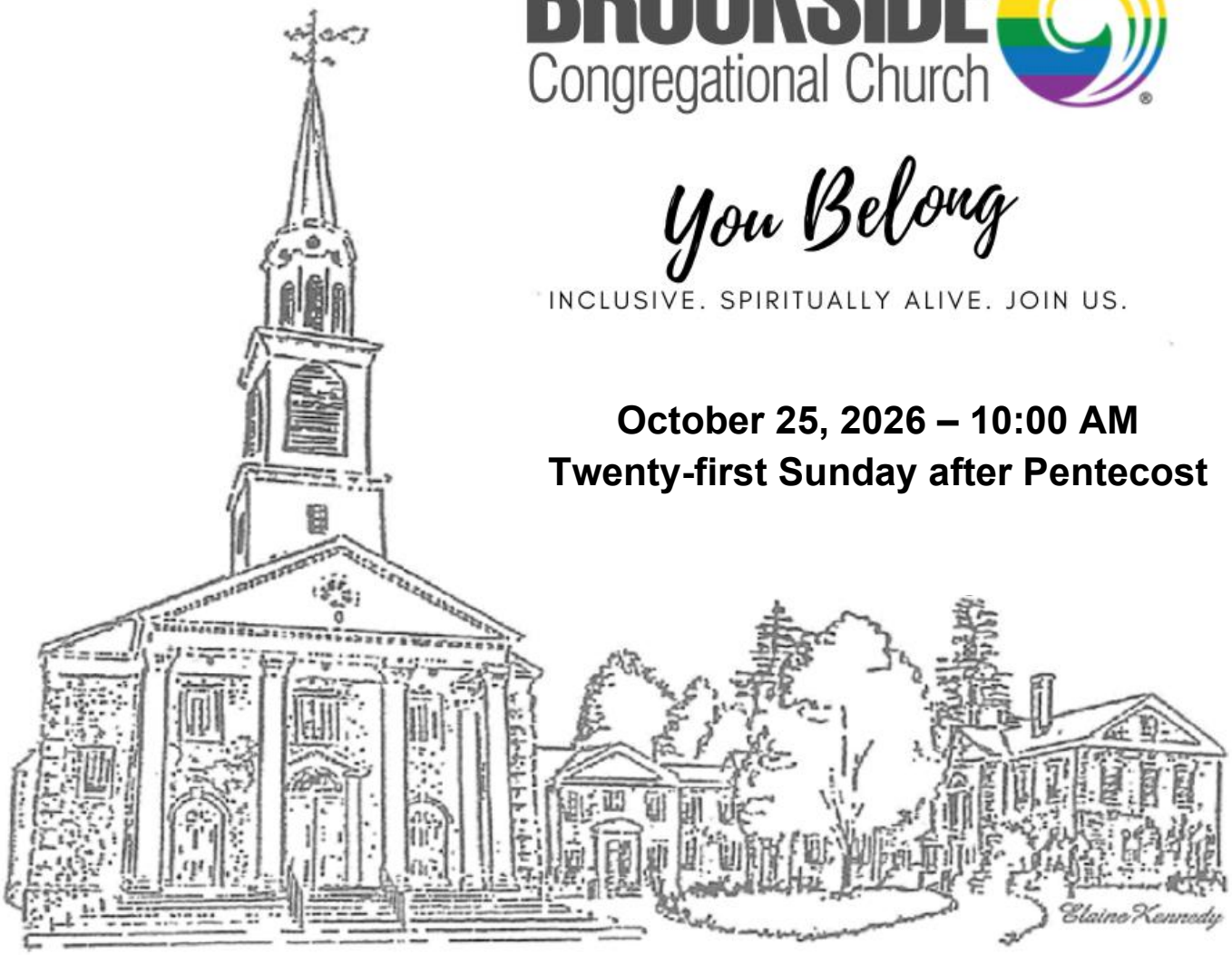
BROOKSIDE Congregational Church

You Belong

INCLUSIVE. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE. JOIN US.



October 25, 2026 – 10:00 AM
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Laura Biddle, Minister
Michelle Jaques, Music Leader
Robert Dionne, Organist
Heather Bridges, Choir Leader
Christina Alvarez and Amber Nicole Cannon, Youth Troupe
Louise Popp, Church Administrator

An Open and Affirming Congregation

2013 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104-2528
Tel. (603) 669-2807 ~ Fax (603) 668-9041
admin@brookside.org ~ www.brooksidecc.org

*Please Stand

GREETING Mission Moment – Ukama

PRELUDE *Come Down, O Love Divine; Ralph Vaughan Williams*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gather together to hear stories of faith and unending love. Listen for the ways God acts in love.

People: We come to this time of worship, listening for God's Word. Like our ancestors, we dare to believe in God's promises.

Leader: When we look beyond the present moment, we trust the dreams not yet realized. Our imaginations hold hope for all that God offers.

People: Generations of people have felt God's love in knowing Jesus. Our relationship with him guides us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Leader: We have come here seeking community centered in Christ.

People: May we feel God's presence as we worship together.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, whose wisdom defies our limited insights and whose commandments are everlasting, open our hearts, souls and minds to your love that surrounds us. Help us regard ourselves and one another as your valuable children while we learn how to care for others with your loving guidance. May our worship honor you and display the power of your love today and always. AMEN

*HYMN *Help Us Accept Each Other* N 388

SCRIPTURE Genesis: 1:26-27 Brian Brady

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing upon the earth." So God created humans in God's image, in the image of God they were created; male and female alike.

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is

the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON	Even This	Rev. Laura Biddle
ANTHEM	*I Love You, Lord*	
PRAYERS		
LORD'S PRAYER		
OFFERTORY		
*DOXOLOGY		
*HYMN	*Lord, I Want to Be A Christian*	N 454
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; Charles Wesley*	

Deacon of the Week: Heather Merrill
Reader: Brian Brady
Spirit Squad: The Drewry's
Sound Technician: Peter VanAmburg
Technology: Matt Burch

Please Remember in Prayer

Christina Alvarez and Family
Our Homebound Members and Friends.

Brookside's sponsor children: Eben Gulo and Ryan Pierre
~ Sakubva Church, UCC – the center candle celebrates our Ukama Partnership since 1996 ~

Scan the code to donate to Brookside Church.

Envelopes for special Mission donations can be found at the church entrances.

Leap of Faith
This Sunday, **October 25**, the Leap of Faith Women's Spirituality Group will meet after worship in the Manning House Dining Room.

New to Brookside?
If you are new to Brookside and would like to know more about our church, please reach out to Rev. Laura. (revlaura@brooksidecc.org) We are planning a new member joining ceremony in November and would love you to be part of it.

The **Brookside Choir** is looking for new members to help us make a "joyful noise" during our Sunday worship services. No prior choir experience is necessary. You do not have to commit to being there every week - all that is required is a desire to sing and have fun!
The Brookside Choir will host a breakfast of coffee and donuts in the Narthex on **Sunday, November 1st at 8:30 am**. Come meet the choir, have breakfast, and stay for choir practice at 9:00am in the sanctuary. We will begin practicing music for Advent and Christmas that day. Please join us!

Advent Bible Study – Save the Date
November 29 through December 20, 8:30 am in the Manning House Dining Room.

Fall Book Group - October 27 on Zoom
Join Rev. Laura for our fall book group on **Tuesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm** on Zoom. We will be discussing "I See You've Called In Dead" by John Kenney. It is a dark comedic book about a disillusioned obituary writer who accidentally publishes his own death notice**.** We will explore themes of life and mortality, and grief and connection. Please get in touch with the office if you would like to join us

UCC Neighbors in Need Special Offering
Throughout the month of October, all of us at Brookside have the opportunity to participate in the 2026 United Church of Christ (UCC) Neighbors in Need offering. This year all of the Special Offerings are part of “A Year of Love” with each offering guiding and encouraging us towards generosity rooted in love. The 2026 UCC Neighbors in Need theme is “Advocacy and Justice Ministries”. This offering is based on Ephesians 5:2 “Walk in love, as Christ loved us”. As noted by the UCC, “this offering is transformative because it calls us to work towards collective justice, creating a genuine ecosystem of people who work collaboratively across issues and geographies to bring about social change” Neighbors in Need funds justice ministries engaged in advocacy and direct support. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), comprising over 20 Native congregations and over 1,000 individuals in the UCC , and two-thirds funds justice efforts in the National Ministries. Donations for this special offering may be made via the DONATE button at Brooksidecc.org/donate or through Special offering envelopes located in the Narthex.

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20–23; Eph. 4:1–6, 11–16

1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.

3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.

4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian 454

African-American spiritual *Deut. 6:5–6; 10:12–1*

THE PINNACLE FOUNDATION

SOUP BOWL *Fundraiser!*

TO BENEFIT THE NH FOOD BANK AND FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2026

BROOKSIDE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2013 ELM STREET, MANCHESTER, NH
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

TICKET INCLUDES SOUP DONATED BY PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS AND BISTROS, LIVE MUSIC AND PROGRAM DONATION.

TICKETS: $35 **BUY NOW AT PINNACLEFOUNDATIONNH.ORG**