

April 25, 2024

**BROOKSIDE**  
Congregational Church



## The Brookside Bridge

*Keeping You Connected*



### Minister's Message

How can we help Jesus these days? He tells us that he is the Vine and we are the branches. We need his energy, but we can't help him alone. Join me and Jordan this Sunday as we listen for God's presence in music, prayers, and silence. The choir meets at 8:30. Spiritual Art with Jen begins after a children's message. Youth Music with Christina meets at 11:00 am.

Rehearsals Begin: Youth readers for the Pentecost Drama will meet at 11:00 am in my office for a read-through of the script.

Hope to see you on Sunday,  
Rev. Laura



### Spring Clean Up

Join the Stewardship Ministry on **Saturday, April 27, and Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 to 1:00 pm** as we clean up the Brookside grounds. ALL garden beds will need to be raked and weeded and all lawn areas need to have branches, pine cones, and litter picked up. Bring your work gloves and any tools (rakes, etc.). Wheelbarrows will be provided. All volunteers are greatly appreciated to help keep this large property looking spectacular! Many hands make light work!

Jane Sherwin and Karen Soule, Building & Grounds



### Ruth Bodge Turns 103!!

Help us celebrate this milestone by sending a birthday card to Ruth at:

Maple Leaf Healthcare Center  
198 Pearl Street  
Manchester, NH 03104

**Horton Center Scholarships Available**



Scholarships are available for Brookside members who are registered to attend the Horton Center summer camp. Scholarship amounts will be determined based on the number of requests received. If you would like to request a scholarship, please email Sarah Peterson, Christian Formation Chair, at [sarita201@gmail.com](mailto:sarita201@gmail.com). The deadline for requests is April 30th.

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### News from Brookside's Kitchen Committee

A small group of representatives from each of the church Ministries met this past Sunday to begin planning for organization and care of the kitchens in Fellowship Hall and Manning House. In taking a quick tour we realized there are many items that do not belong to the church. Please take a look around and claim those items that are yours. Deadline for reclaiming your belongings is set for the KC's next meeting on Sunday, May 5.

Jean Dickson

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### News from Zimbabwe

Brookside has received updated emails from our Ukama partner at Sakubva Church. Here is a summary of the news:

The Reverend John Monjonjo ended his second term of an 8-year calling to serve our Ukama sister, Sakubva Church in Sakubva, Zimbabwe (16 years altogether). Rev. Monjonjo was serving as Sakubva's Pastor when we started our relationship in December 1996 and hosted several first **delegation** travelers from NHC/UCC to UCCZ in August 1997. Rev. Monjonjo and Rev. Bill Donoghue participated in monthly phone calls together with Mr. Liberty Dhliwayo, a member at Brookside born and raised in Zimbabwe. When 9/11/2001 occurred Rev. Monjonjo sent Rev. Donoghue and the people of Brookside Church a very touching letter of support. Rev. Monjonjo was recalled to Sakubva in 2015, completing his 8-year term in December 2023. He continued to work toward fellowship and communication between our two churches until he ended his role as pastor at Sakubva, moving on to a new calling at Fern Valley Church.

The new pastor at Sakubva Church is Rev. Samson Mhlanga. Rev. Mhlanga is also the National UCCZ Ukama Committee Chair. He is very excited to continue our Ukama relationship.

The Head Deacon for 2024 is Loice Mhlanga, the Ukama Chair is Ding Mhlanga, the Church Secretary is Annah Mercy Mhlanga, and the general membership representatives are Blessing Sithole and Sylvester Dhliwayo. (Now – you have to know that Mhlanga is as common a name in Zimbabwe as Smith or Brown is here – these folks are not all from the same immediate family J)

We look forward to communicating on a more regular basis with our Ukama sister, Sakubva Church.

Jean Dickson

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### Interfaith Women of NH - Thursday, May 9, 6:30 pm

Interfaith Women of NH is excited to offer a Spring event entitled ***Faith and Flowers: Enrich Your Soul***. To be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Our program presenters will share how flowers reflect or represent aspects of each particular faith and how flowers contribute to the expression of faith, understanding how the presence, or absence of flowers may be of significance.

Our keynote speaker is Erica Jeanes owner and florist of the Bee Joyful Farm, a micro flower farm in Candia, NH. Erica is a Flower Farmer, an artist/ artisan, public speaker, and mother of 5 wonderful people. The first gardens were established in 1999. The garden beds are planted with a variety of striking flowers, with offerings changing each year as Erica explores her love of plants and indulges her green thumb. Erica will share her story of how following the death of her mother, creating her flower farm for all to enjoy helped heal her soul.

Simone Ali is a young Muslim woman who attends Goffstown High School. Among other things, Simone has been active in Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.) This group of smart, enthusiastic, and committed young people is part of the Granite State Organizing Project, a social justice organization.

Reverend Laura Biddle is the minister of Brookside Church, United Church of Christ in Manchester NH. She recently celebrated her 30th year of ordained ministry which began with women in prison in Framingham MA. She has been serving in Mass. churches since 1998 including Newburyport, Salem, Andover, Boxford, Weston, and Nahant. Brookside is her first Call in New Hampshire. She also is a trained grief counselor. For many years, she served as a Spiritual Advisor with military families grieving suicide. Rev. Laura has three married children and three grandchildren living near her.

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson is the spiritual leader of Temple Adath Yeshurun, a reformed Jewish community that has been part of Manchester's history for nearly 140 years. Rabbi Beth came to TAY in 2005. She has been active in interfaith programs over many years in New York, Tennessee, and New Hampshire and has contributed articles to publications produced by such groups as the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). In addition to her commitments within the Jewish Community, Rabbi Davidson is currently the President of the Greater Manchester Clergy Association, and a lecturer for OLLI, a local organization dedicated to ongoing adult learning. Though living amidst the Red Sox nation, she is still a devoted NY Mets, NY Giants, and NY Jets fan; Rabbi Beth has however, developed a firm attachment to the Manchester Fisher Cats.

This event will be provided on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester 03104.

**The program starts at 6:30 pm, check-in begins at 6:00 pm**

Please RSVP to [interfaithwomennh@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithwomennh@gmail.com) or call 603-233-7760

Visit us online at: [interfaithwomennh.org](http://interfaithwomennh.org)

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### After Worship Fellowship Hour

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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 (669-2807) for more information.

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

## BROOKSIDE CALENDAR

Saturday, April 27th  
9:00 am, Spring Clean-Up,  
Church Grounds

Sunday, April 28th  
8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary  
10:00 am Worship Service,  
Sanctuary  
11:00 am Junior Jammers  
and Youth Choir, Sanctuary

Sunday, May 3th  
8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary  
10:00 am Worship Service,  
Sanctuary  
11:00 am Junior Jammers and  
Youth Choir, Sanctuary

Visit our Website

Brookside Congregational Church | 603-669-2807 | 603-668-9041 Fax | [www.brooksidecc.org](http://www.brooksidecc.org)

STAY CONNECTED



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

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