

A black and white photograph of a small, white, single-story church with a tall steeple, situated in a snowy landscape. The church is surrounded by bare trees and a wooden fence in the foreground.

Approximately 2,000 years ago, the Celtic people, who lived in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France began their New Year on November 1st. The evening before, they observed the end of the harvest and the previous year with the Festival of Samhain. They believed Samhain (it's pronounced "sow-in") was the lord of death. Supposedly, Samhain sent forth evil spirits during the night between the old and New Year to attack humans, who could only escape by wearing disguises that made them look like evil spirits. They would put bowls of food outside their doors to appease the evil spirits and keep them away from their houses.

Our contemporary Halloween comes from a combination of these two ancient observances. Though it may seem most themes of Halloween today find more in common with the Festival of Samhain than with All Hallow's Eve. On the other hand, what is bad or evil about children dressing up like princesses and cowboys or super-heroes, and collecting candy door to door?

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

What's Going On?

Pictured here, the ladies of the Guild take a tea break after laborious work on items for the annual **Christmas Fair**. The Fair is traditionally the first Saturday of December & so is **Saturday, December 6th** this year. Of course, you are invited to this holiday celebration filled with handcrafted treasures & delicious treats. This will be a good chance to get a leg up on your Christmas shopping. The ladies will be showcasing a selection of quilts, towels, table runners, jewelry, and so much more. This year there will be a silent auction with beautifully arrayed gift baskets just right for Christmas giving. And the bake sale is always a huge hit and legendary; folks are known to arrive early in search of their favorite treats. Conclude your shopping with a hearty chowdah lunch, sandwich and yummy dessert. Join us for a fun time with friends and neighbors.



L-R Bonnie Mardin, Melissa Chapman, Sally Letendre, Karyl Larsen , Cheryl Moulton, Susan Superchi, Patricia Williams, Deb Braley, Anne Pulsifer, Alicia Chapman, Elaine Day, Irene Chapman



Dr. Charles Nyane, pictured here with Pastor Jeff and John Cumming, runs a mission in the Republic of Ghana. Dr. Nyane delivered a very interesting "African" sermon to our congregation in June.



Jane Scrafford, wearing a forever popcorn/cranberry Christmas tree garland.



Start them young! Brenda McKenzie & Lily Lemiux



Patricia Williams - crocheting a forever popcorn/cranberry garland for the Christmas sale. Hey - it looks so real!



Bill Scrafford, Pastor Jeff, Alan Hill, Jim Krull / enjoying Chef Bill's labors at a Men's breakfast.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR'S MONTH!

Every Sunday, Pastor Jeff travels over 80 miles from Kingston, NH - rain or shine - to be with us. He's dedicated. We're grateful for his steady leadership, thoughtful teaching, and care for our congregation. His commitment to serving with integrity and compassion makes a lasting impact week after week. Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for all you do.

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November 2nd - Remembrance Sunday

Join us for Remembrance Sunday on November 2nd, as part of our regular church service. We will take time to honor and remember those we've loved and lost. During the service, photos of departed loved ones will be shown on the wall - a visual tribute to their lives, their legacy, and the love they shared. If you would like someone remembered, please submit a photo to Brenda McKenzie by October 30th. Whether they were family, friends, mentors, or neighbors, this is a meaningful way to acknowledge their presence in our hearts and community. Let us come together in worship, remembrance, and gratitude - celebrating the lives that continue to shape us with love.

New Administrative Assistant!



Meet Nikki Ann Nunes, our new Administrative Assistant, whose cheerful nature and dedication have lifted a burden from our volunteers. With her warm smile and can-do spirit, Nikki has brought energy to the role - managing church communications, coordinating schedules, and keeping our operations run-

ning smoothly. She also works full-time at the college, balancing both responsibilities with grace and good humor. A proud mother of one daughter and grandmother of three, Nikki's love for children shines through in her leadership of Christian Education, where she oversees Sunday School. She also heads up the kitchen crew, faithfully supporting Sunday fellowship and every food-related gathering with joy and delicious offerings. Among her many tasks, Nikki manages the church calendar, coordinates event scheduling, advertises upcoming events, prints the Sunday bulletin & sends it out by email each week, and ensures it is ready for worship containing up to date prayer needs. If you need folks to know something, speak to Nikki - or just call the church office and she'll get right back to you! Ask her what keeps her going, and she'll simply say, "I love my church family!" We're so glad she's here - thank you, Nikki, for all you do!

**Mission Moment
Operation Christmas Child**

Samaritan's Child Operation Christmas Child has been completed. Thanks to the generosity and care of our congregation, 32 Christmas boxes have been carefully packed and will soon be delivered to the local drop off location. Each box is filled with gifts, supplies, and love - and will be sent to children around the world who might otherwise go without during the holiday season. These small packages carry a big message: you are seen and you will share in the joys of Christmas. Thanks to everyone who contributed items, packed boxes, or helped with delivery. Your kindness will brighten Christmas morning for children across the globe. Stay tuned for more mission opportunities in the months ahead! Thank you, Becky Harding, for organizing this year's Operation Christmas Child mission. Your dedication, attention to detail, and tireless effort once again ensured the success of this mission.



WEBSITE? www.camptoncongregationalchurch.org

A good church website is the front door to the church, it welcomes visitors, connects members, and extends our ministry beyond the building. It's not just helpful, it's essential for outreach, engagement, and growth in today's digital world. When folks are church shopping they explore websites and they are able to do it anytime day or night. Someone may be new in town, or will be just visiting, or just looking for guidance. A church's website is often the first impression people will have of a church - the front door. We have a website of course, but in light of the importance of this technology a church committee has been looking into professional help in creating the best site possible. Stay tuned!

Faith & Reflection

- Did You Know? The word "October" comes from the Latin "octo," meaning eight. It was the eighth month in the ancient Roman calendar.
- "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." — Genesis 8:22
- Saint Spotlight: October 4 is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of animals and nature. Many churches hold pet blessings in his honor.
- "God doesn't just change the leaves—He transforms hearts."
- October 31 marks the start of the Protestant Reformation - Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses in 1517.
- Psalm 19:1 — "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

It's About Time

While most countries adjust their clocks for Daylight Saving Time, China takes a different approach: the entire nation - from the eastern coast to the far western borders - follows a single time zone, Beijing time. This means that in some locations the sun may rise or set at unusual hours, but it seems that China reasons the consistency simplifies their scheduling & national order of things.

As we prepare to "fall back" on Sunday, November 2, ending Daylight Saving Time in the U.S., it's interesting how timekeeping varies around the world. The debate continues here: some argue DST saves energy & boosts evening activity, while others cite health risks & muddle. Meanwhile, China's one-time-zone policy offers a striking contrast - favoring consistency over regional accuracy. Here in the US Hawaii and parts of Arizona do not change to DST.

Imagine if the entire U.S. ran on one time zone - say, Eastern Time. That would mean sunrise in California could happen as late as 10 a.m., and sunset might stretch past 9 p.m. in summer. Meanwhile, folks in Maine would be drinking their coffee in daylight at 4 a.m.!

Mark Your Calendars

- November 2nd – Remembrance Sunday
- November 9th - Men's Breakfast 7:45 a.m. Chef Bill at the stove!
- November 9th - DellaValla Trio will be with us & it's Veterans Sunday
- November 9th - Quarterly Meeting
- November 16th - Advent begins
- November 18th - Deacon's Meeting 8:30 a.m.
- November 18th - Church Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- November 29th - Decorate the Church for Christmas 10:00 a.m.
- December 6th - Christmas Fair 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- December 14th - Men's Breakfast 7:45 a.m.

Smile Aisle



*How to comfort an
English Teacher:*

There

Their

They're

Have you noticed how squirrels seem to panic-shop for acorns these days? Or how pumpkin spice shows up in everything from lattes to dog treats? Even nature has its quirks, and fall invites us to laugh, wonder, and enjoy the oddities and beautiful imperfections of nature.

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

— Galatians 6:9