

## From the Pastor

School has started, yay! Well, you know. I know that we had a summer because it has been hot, but my, it certainly flew by. Seems like just a week or so ago, we were saying goodbye to Howard and the choir for the summer. Then the Sunday School year came to a close and we cried and celebrated with Cindy upon her retirement after serving more than 30 years as our Director of Christian Education. Well done, Cindy!

But alas in the Spring, as we look forward to the summer “break,” our new program year seems to come faster and faster. On September 8, Howard will be back (where he should be!) offering praise to God with his beautiful talents through the gift of music, then the choir will return on September 22, with rehearsals beginning on September 5 (everyone welcome).

The Sunday School also begins on September 8. But this year will be a little different. Dana Thayer is our new Director of Christian Education and she has some exciting new ideas for our youth and children. That’s the way the church works. Things change; new ideas come forward, while building on the memories of the past. In Isaiah 43:18-19a we read:

*<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

I think Isaiah intended for us to learn from the past, but he doesn’t want us to be stuck in the past. Sometimes change is inevitable and the old is not any better or worse than the new; just different. I encourage all of us to embrace the newness of each program year without getting stuck in the past (you know the notion that “that’s not the way we have done it in the past”). God is “about to do a new thing.” I hope and pray you will come along for the journey.

Plans are being made for two special services. The first is our annual homecoming which will be on September 22. The day will begin with breakfast at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall followed by a time of Bible Study and fellowship. Then at 10:30 am we will gather in the sanctuary to worship and offer our praises to God for the sustaining life and ministry of The Cornerstone Baptist Church.

The second service is the renewal of the annual gathering at the Howard Valley Christian Church. This service is scheduled for September 29 at 2:00 pm. This year we will be partnering with The Federated Church of Brooklyn to offer this service. As a reminder, Howard Valley has no electricity or plumbing (no bathrooms). If this service is well received by the community, the plan is that next year, we will begin offering monthly services from May to September. We will keep you updated on that.

So, as our new program year begins, I ask for your prayers for our staff and for each other as we continuously discern the path God would have us to take to reignite our church with a passion for worshipping and serving God by reaching out to our neighbors.

**This Month**

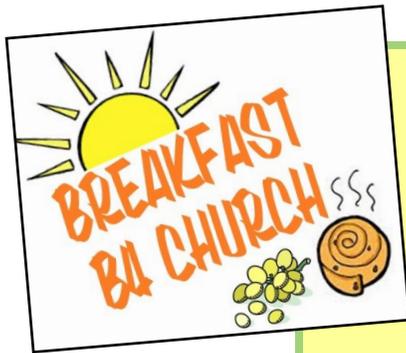
**Sunday, September 1:** 10:00 am - Worship, Communion

**Sunday, September 8:** 9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am -Worship

**Sunday, September 15:** 9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am - Worship

**Sunday, September 22:** 9:00 am **Breakfast**  
9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am - Worship & Homecoming

**Sunday, September 29:** 9:30 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am - Worship  
2:00 pm - Howard Valley Service



September 22

**HOMECOMING SUNDAY**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!**

Once again this year we have decided to hold a  
Breakfast/brunch on Homecoming Sunday at 9 am.  
Can't wait to see everyone back from summer vacations!  
So come and enjoy great food and fellowship  
and while you are at it, bring a friend!!

**Ladies Luncheon**

The next luncheon will be September 10th at Main Street Grille in Putnam at 12 noon.  
All ladies of the church are welcome.

**Pastor:**

Rev. Scott Hayes

**Organist/Choir Director:**

Howard W. Curry

**Director of Christian Education:**

Dana Thayer

**Administrative Secretary:**

Kris Useted

Remember: the last person to leave the church building should be sure that all doors and windows are closed/locked. The Academy Street door into Fellowship Hall is kept locked during the Sunday worship service. Thank you for helping us take care of our facilities.

The Connection is published 11 times a year at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, and is put together by a host of valuable volunteers. Please send next month's articles and information to the office by the 15th of the month, no later than the 20th. If you no longer want to receive this newsletter via U.S. mail, please notify the church office. The newsletter is available online at [www.cbct.us](http://www.cbct.us)



## Sunday School

will begin again on September 8th,  
and we have lots of fun  
and a few changes planned!

Here are some important things to know:

- Sunday School will run from 9:30-10:15. We will not have snacks this year, but feel free to bring your own snack if you need a quick pick-me-up between Sunday School and worship!
- After a whole-group “opening”, we will break into interest-based groups, instead of age-based classes. Kids’ choices will vary from week to week, and they will be able to participate in activities that spark their understanding and imagination.
- Coffee will be available each Sunday morning for parents and other adults. We want everyone to stop downstairs, see what’s happening, and join in! Also, we would love to have each adult in the church volunteer to help one Sunday during the year- we would work your hobbies/talents/expertise into the program so you can get to know the kids, and they can get to know you!
- There are new guidelines for earning Camperships: You must attend 20 weeks of Sunday School, 20 weeks of church, and participate in at least one Campership fundraiser. Substitutions will be considered for our youngest children, who may be unable to participate in fundraisers. Camperships are available for Camp Wightman and Camp Monadnock (but ask if there is another Christian camp that interests you).
- On the subject of camp, please send any pictures you have of your time at camp in recent years. We would love to update the camp poster in the fellowship hall!

Finally, if anyone is interested in helping with Sunday School, or just learning more about what we have planned, please join us for a Teachers Meeting on Sunday, August 25th at 9:30. No strings attached!

We’re looking forward to a year of learning, growing, and being joyful! Don’t hesitate to ask if you have any questions!

Dana Thayer



*Come be part of  
the family!*

# **Annual Worship Service\***

**September 29<sup>th</sup> - 2:00 PM**



## **Howard Valley Christian Church**

182 Windham Road, Hampton, CT 06247

**All are welcome to attend the service which will be conducted by  
Rev. Scott Hayes, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Danielson and  
Rev. Jane Newall, Federated Church of Christ, Brooklyn.**

**\*Please note: This charming country church does not have electricity  
or restroom facilities.**



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## The Connection September 2019



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