

Connecting Hope

Fall 2018

2018 Annual Event and Winter Warm-Up

Each fall, Connecting Hope hosts an Annual Event and Winter Warm-up where all are invited to gather information and make contacts which will help central Vermonters become more self-sufficient and secure.

The Annual Event invites area organizations to share information about their services and churches to share their faith, prayers and guidance. Each resource vendor is invited to host a table to provide information and, sometimes, items such as socks, pens, toys, faith literature, and more. Attendees can sign up at each table to join a mailing list for more information.

The Winter Warm-Up provides FREE winter clothing, coats, and footwear. Barre Evangelical Free Church organizes the Winter Warm-Up. Coats and clothing for all shapes and sizes are hung on racks and piled on tables for attendees to choose whatever they need. Volunteers are on hand to help folks choose exactly what they need.

FREE groceries and produce are given away to attendees in generous supply. Canned items, pastas, rice and more are packed into grocery bags by volunteers. Fresh produce is laid out for anyone to have. Its all FREE.

Our Winter Vehicle Check-up looks at vehicles for winter readiness. Fluids are checked and topped off; tires are checked for tread or low pressure and aired up as needed. Gearheads and area youth provide the volunteer force for the Vehicle Check-Up. Gearheads is a mentoring group aimed to introduce young people to auto mechanics.

Lunch is always served to attendees, many of whom arrived hours before the event. Volunteers serve free lunch to all attendees and volunteers. As people are served, volunteers are able to visit with them and share God's love through conversation and service.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Connecting Hope. In 2017, over 80 volunteers supported the Annual Event helping more than 400 people and serving as a shining example of God's love for all people.



2018 Annual Event and Winter Warmup

Saturday, November 3rd, 10 am—2 pm

Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite Street, Barre

Welcome New Member Churches

Resurrection Baptist Church is one of two new Member Churches in Montpelier. Pastor Rick Kesterson and the congregation are looking forward to partnering with Connecting Hope in reaching their community's needs and to build relationships with the folks we serve. Resurrection Baptist Church's existence is '*To Magnify the King and Multiply the Kingdom*'. The church wants to praise and honor our Lord, the King of Kings. A part of that desire to worship is lived out by loving other people. They long to see others become a part of the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The best way to connect to the church is to get involved. Sunday services begin at 9:45 am for Sunday School followed by 11:00 am Worship. Wednesday prayer meetings are at 7:00 pm.

Lighthouse Christian Church is the other new Member Church located in Montpelier. Pastor Sue Salameh has been Senior Pastor at Lighthouse Christian Church for 12 years. The Lighthouse Christian Church is called to radiate and reveal the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ to radically impact and transform lives. We are a Light that pierces the darkness. We are a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. We are a beacon of hope for the hopeless. We are helping people discover the path of salvation and liberation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Lighthouse Christian Church is a non-denominational, Charismatic congregation that has served the Montpelier community for fifteen years. It meets Sundays, 10:30 am at 3 St Paul Street, Montpelier, Vermont.

Countryside Baptist Church and Journey Fellowship are two church plants that have joined Connecting Hope. Countryside Baptist Church, pastored by Jesse Beebe, is located in West Topsham. Countryside Baptist has hosted Faith and Family Films and some community events. Services began on September 23rd. Journey Fellowship, pastored by Sean Odom, is located in Plainfield at the former Macedonia Baptist Church. Journey Fellowship is hosting Thursday spaghetti dinners—a well-known ministry of Macedonia Baptist. Services will begin November 3rd.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

A lot of searching goes into the Christmas season, doesn't it? We search for that one-of-a-kind gift for the one(s) we love. We search for memorable places to visit that bring about festive feelings of the "Christmas spirit" such as an annual neighborhood light display or the trip to a Vermont tree farm to find that perfect spruce, pine, or balsam. We search for our favorite yuletide cinematic classics like *White Christmas*, *A Christmas Story*, or *It's a Wonderful Life*.

We find searchers in the Scripture also. There were wisemen that searched and found a king worthy of three precious gifts (Matthew 2:1-2; 11). There were shepherds who searched...and found peace on earth, good will toward men wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger (Luke 2:8-16). There were two parents who searched for their preteen son and when they find him in the temple they were reminded why he is the One who is worthy to be sought for he knows why he had come and what his purpose was (Luke 2:41-52).



That same one, that same Jesus is also searching...seeking people for His kingdom. Jesus preached of a kingdom that had come and invited all who would listen to come into that kingdom through faith in the Son of God, the Savior of the World, the one perfect sacrifice for the world's sin. He was willing to seek you out to the point of leaving his glory in heaven to live among us so that you might live with Him in eternity. He wants you to be found. His Word has said that he can be found if we seek Him with all our hearts. Are you willing to seek Him this Christmas season. He's not trying to hide from you. He has told you about himself. He has revealed himself to us all for the purpose of being found. He may be speaking to you right now. Respond today!

Around the Kingdom...

Websterville Baptist Church

“Built upon the Rock” in Barre, Vt., Websterville Baptist Church’s history spans 110 years, carving a kingdom for God in the heart of the granite quarries. In similar fashion, Websterville Christian Academy started over forty years ago sculpting the image of Christ in central Vermont through sound Bible education from pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade.

Websterville Baptist ministries emphasize the principles of Matthew 5:14, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” WBC is presently assisting the renovation of a home for a couple without housing. In the past, WBC volunteers built a house for a member in need out of their own pocket. Several WBC volunteers have responded to devastated flood regions, too.

Whether through vibrant church services, *Connexion* groups, daycare, school, food shelf or other community services, Websterville Baptist Church and Websterville Christian Academy strive to model good works before all that God might be glorified. This year alone, Websterville Christian Academy’s junior and senior high have logged nearly 200 community service hours. Stacking wood, stocking food shelves or serving in a soup kitchen, WCA is not merely talking about Christ but trying to show the compassion of Christ as well. When Jesus’ ways are seen, the message truth and life are better taught.

Pastor Brian Fecher

As a young man in his twenties, Brian Fecher realized there was a God worth knowing. Within months after accepting Jesus as his Savior and being baptized, Brian



noticed another desire developing—the desire to preach. He accepted the will of God to preach and enrolled in Boston Baptist College where he would eventually graduate. With approximately thirty years ministry experiences spanning from a Bible College Dean of Men to Christian School Administrator to Missionary Deputation to Church Planter and ultimately as Pastor in New England, Brian with his wife Diana and their ten children came to Websterville in 2016. Christian life has been quite an adventure.

We are grateful to be part of a ministry that has a lot of energy going in the right direction..... to glorify our Lord! - Pastor Brian



Websterville Baptist Church

143 Church Hill Road
Websterville, VT 05678

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Email: fecherb@wbcvt.com

Website: www.websterville.org

Sunday 9:00 am Meet and Greet
9:30 am Bible Classes (all ages)
10:30 am Praise and Preaching
6:00 pm Youth Group @ Collins Hall

Wednesdays: 6:30 pm Bible Study and Prayer
3rd Thursday 8:00 am Men’s Breakfast @ Wayside

Connecting Hope Executive Board

Dan Molind, Chairman

Rosaire Bisson, Vice Chairman

Barbara McMahan, Secretary

Roland Metevier

Brian Fecher

Pam Burt



Where do YOU fit in?

Great question, right? I may not be able to answer that question regarding where you fit in at your workplace, in your family or in your church, but I can tell you Connecting Hope needs you to join us in building the Kingdom of God. Like cogs working in sync, we all must work together as the Body of Christ to share His love with our communities and with our world. Connecting Hope has many opportunities for you to become involved.

- ⇒ Donate winter clothing, food items, or furniture (when needed).
- ⇒ Give your time to volunteer at the Annual Event.
- ⇒ Tithe your Talent to help others (home and auto repair for example).
- ⇒ Volunteer with the Hopeline.
- ⇒ Sponsor a family for Christmas.
- ⇒ Join with Operation Winter Hope.
- ⇒ Spread the word about Connecting Hope in your church and neighborhood.
- ⇒ Support Connecting Hope financially through your church or directly.
- ⇒ Pray. Pray. Pray for those in need and those serving.

Contact Connecting Hope to find out more about the many great opportunities to love people in the Name of Christ.

Food Drive

The November 3rd Annual Event provides information from local organizations, warm clothing and FREE groceries to anyone who attends. Typically, 600+ people attend the event. We need to collect at least 400 of each item listed below.

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| Creamy Peanut Butter | Canned Meat (Ham, Chicken, Tuna, Salmon) |
| Instant Mashed Potatoes | Canned Green Beans |
| White Rice (1 lb. bag) | Canned Carrots |
| Pasta or Noodles | Canned Corn |
| Pasta Sauce (Cans) | Canned Fruit |
| Beans (Canned or Dry) | Cereal |



Connecting Hope Member Churches

Barre Evangelical Free Church
Pastor Neal Laybourne

Christ Community Alliance
Asst. Pastor Rosaire Bisson

Corinth Bible Church
Pastor Nathan Old

Countryside Baptist Church
Pastor Jesse Beebe

Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian
Pastor Carl Durham

Crossroads Christian Church
Pastor Thorsten Evans

East Barre Congregational Church
Interim Pastor Gordon Wells

Enough Ministries
Pastor Daniel Molind

Faith Community Church
Pastor Chris Autry

First Baptist Church
Pastor Craig Ray

Journey Fellowship
Pastor Sean Odom

Lighthouse Christian Church
Pastor Susan Salameh

New Life Assembly
Pastor Brian Lacount

Resurrection Baptist Church
Pastor Rick Kesterson

Washington Baptist Church
Pastor Russ Rathier

Websterville Baptist Church
Pastor Brian Fecher

Connecting Hope

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