

North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
155 Old Main Road/PO Box 403
North Falmouth, MA 02556-0403

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The Sandpiper is a monthly publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.
The Reverend Nancy W. Strickland, Interim Pastor (508) 563-2177, www.northfalmouthucc.com





The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

January 2018

Pastoral Page

Dear Friends,

It seems like yesterday that we began the season of Advent and now we are in Epiphany and we begin a new year, 2018! Traditionally people make resolutions this time of year, hoping to improve themselves in some way. There is the promise of diets, of more exercise, of trying to be nicer to people. I would like to suggest that you consider looking ahead by being guided by the Advent and Christmas we have just come through as well as seeking the light of the Epiphany season that we now find ourselves in. Where will we experience God's love and care and how will we reflect that in our daily lives in 2018?

Look back with wondering eyes and ponder the mystery of that holy birth. Mary was surprised by the message of an angel, and she pondered that message in her heart. How might you allow God's surprising ways to work in your life in 2018? Could you be more open to new opportunities and experiences that God might have in store for you? Look back at the trust Joseph put in God when he was faced with circumstances hard to explain. Where are you being called to new trust in God's ways? Look back at the faithful shepherds who tended their flocks on the Bethlehem hills, who were awe struck by the sight of the angels. Where in your life are you called to new faithfulness? Where

are you called to be lifted up by the sight of angels? Look back with a sense of adventure and think about the majesty of those wise men following a star to Bethlehem. How might you allow yourself to be guided by a sense of hope rather than fear? As you think about the year ahead, ponder the words of Henry Van Dyke:

“Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?”

Perhaps the best resolution of all is to keep Christmas in our hearts all year long.

In faith,

Pastor Nancy

Sunday Worship in January 2018

January 7th, Epiphany

No 8:30 a.m. service

10 a.m. Intergenerational Worship and Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

“Star Seekers”

January 14

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship and Holy Communion

10 a.m. Worship and Church School

1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

“Known and Loved”

January 21

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship and Holy Communion

10 a.m. Worship and Church School

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1

Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

“Follow Me”

Jan 28

No 8:30 am Service

10 a.m. Worship and Church School, Infant Baptism

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111,

1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

“With Authority”

Church Annual Meeting Today after worship

ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

After Wednesday Winter Soup January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 12:30

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, there will be four sessions to look back at what happened in church reform and renewal which brought about sweeping changes in European culture and society. These changes shaped modern Europe and America and influenced the entire world. Many today are claiming that the church and society are ripe for a new Reformation,

even that we are already in the midst of one. Looking back helps us to consider the urgency of reform and renewal today, and to assess those movements in our own time that promise new Reformation. There is a study guide for participants in the office and a signup sheet by the office door. The sessions will be led by Pastor Nancy and Lisa Allen.

Spirituality Series

Saramaria Allenby our member in discernment will lead a series on spirituality based on Joyce Rupp's book: **The Cup of Our Life** On Monday's January 22, 29, February 5 and 12 at 6:30. Books will be available for sale for \$14 at coffee hour January 7 and 14 or in the office.

Please join us if you can and email Saramaria at Sallenby48@gmail.com so we can have an idea of numbers attending.

From Amazon book review and Spiritualityandpractice.com *In the book The Cup of Our Life, Joyce Rupp, OSM, offers practical suggestions and meaningful content to aide the spiritual pilgrim in developing a deeper and more intimate relationship with God.*

"I have found the cup to be a powerful teacher for my inner life," writes Joyce Rupp in this wonderful series of meditations. "The ordinariness of the cup reminds me that my personal transformation occurs in the common crevices of each day. The cup is an apt image for the inner processes of growth. The cup is a reminder of my spiritual thirst."

The book is organized on a daily basis, it encourages the reader to use an ordinary cup (or mug) to invite God more closely into one's pain, suffering, joys, hopes and struggles. She explores six major themes in the spiritual life, each one followed by prayer suggestions including litanies, creative writing, ideas for reflection and journal-keeping, and a celebratory ritual. Throughout the book she manifests a profound trust in the transformative power of the in-dwelling God, and in the daily-ness of God's presence with all those who seek with a genuine heart.

STUDY WEEK FOR PASTOR NANCY
January 8 to 15th.

Part of Pastor Nancy's contract with NFCC allows for two study weeks a year. She will take the first one in January. Some of the time she will be on retreat and the rest of the week will be spent in study and planning for worship for Lent. During this week if there is a pastoral emergency please be in touch with Kristin Fraser, Senior Deacon.

Christian Education

Christmas Pageant

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Pageant this year.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cole Allenby | Alan King |
| Peter Allenby | Annie Ledwell |
| Theo Allenby | Maia Ledwell |
| Julia Buttrick | Tess Ledwell |
| Lila Buttrick | Hunter Malcolm |
| Delaney Clements | Lyla Malcolm |
| Maddy Deveau | Graham Murphy |
| Anna Noble Dunphy | Keira Murphy |
| Danielle Dunphy | Zoe |
| Maggie Gorell | Sarah Oshman |
| Molly Gorell | Trish Oshman |
| Bianca Greco | Hope Oliveira |
| Marcus Greco | Kalyn Oliveira |
| Bea Hatch | Lindsey Oliveira |
| Willy Hatch | Ray Rowitz |
| Winnie Hatch | |

Thanks to our many volunteers, the pageant was a big success and helped to set the tone for a beautiful Christmas.



A Beautiful Liturgical Dance



Sweet, Happy Lambs



Adorable Angels



A Wonderful Christmas Pageant !!

College Care Packages

We sent out 10 college care packages this year filled with treats. Thank you to all who contributed. Our students are always so happy to receive them – and their friends as well!

Giving Tree

Our giving tree began this year with tags for three local families. These families were struggling this year and we were able to be sure that their children received gifts and that parents could buy food and other holiday necessities.

Thank you not only for your contributions but for the great enthusiasm with which you participate in this program every year.

Coming Soon

Our penpal program will begin in February. If you have never participated before, this is a great opportunity to get to know someone new. We will match kids and adults as secret penpals who will write to each other over several weeks. This has historically been one of our most popular programs.

Lent begins on Valentine's Day this year. Lisa will again do a weekly email meditation so be sure your email info is up-to-date.

Youth Schedule Grades 5 and up



Sunday, January 14, 4:30-6:00 – Bring-a-friend New Year's party. Since everyone's schedule was too full for a Christmas party we will have a New Year's one instead! Plan on a pot-luck dinner, gift exchange, games and fun. And remember to bring a friend or two.

Sunday, January 28, 4:30-6:00 – Cooking for the Village

January Birthdays



01/02	Thomas Heino
01/06	Eleanore Scavotto
01/06	Patricia Peterson
01/08	Jan Deacon
01/10	Gladys Hoke
01/11	Chuck Teixeira
01/12	Pat Anderson
01/12	Robert Bock
01/13	Martha Rosewell
01/13	Jackson Weseman
01/14	Marsha Martin
01/15	Thomas Gawarkiewicz
01/16	Michael Ovia
01/18	Hunter Malcolm
01/18	Toby Ryan
01/21	Caroline Scavotto
01/21	Candace Teixeira
01/24	Maia Ledwell
01/25	Lois Kristiansen
01/28	Trevor Tivey

Happy Birthday



Thursday, December 21st a Blue Christmas Service led by clergy from 8 area churches was very well attended. Beverly Blaine again used her talents to create this beautiful candle holder.



Marsha Martin and Sandy Checklick arranging the Poinsettias



Altar Flower Calendar for 2018

The 2018 Flower Calendar is posted outside the church office. Please consider dedicating flowers during January or February. In any case, please take a look at the calendar and select a date you would like to dedicate flowers during the next year.

IN CASE YOU WONDER HOW OUR MASS CONFERENCE UCC HELPS THE LOCAL CHURCH

Mary's Story

Mary, a mother, comes to church with her child, Amy. She settles Amy into the Sunday school, secure in her safety – the church has implemented safe church policies with the assistance of the Conference. In Sunday school the child learns of God’s love for everyone using a UCC curriculum. The teachers have attended “Learning to Teach” seminars offered by the Massachusetts Conference, belong to a Christian Educator’s Community of Practice, and their director has gone through the

Christian Educator's Certification program. They call the Conference when they are looking for resources.

Mary settles into a pew and opens the colorful Sunday bulletin, printed on the UCC Sunday bulletin series. There are a lot of announcements this morning. Two carloads of people are going to the next twice-annual "Super Saturday" event of the Conference, where over 30 workshops on every aspect of church life will be offered. There is a fundraiser for youth in the church who will be attending the next UCC National Youth Event. Several church members are going to help with disaster recovery on a mission trip organized through the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries. There will be confirmation in two weeks for the confirmands, who attended a confirmation retreat sponsored by the Conference. Mary has her own announcement, encouraging members to join her in signing up for the Lenten Carbon Fast. She points them to the MACUCC website for more information.

Mary loves the church's pastor, who was called just two years earlier after a search with help from Don Remick, one of the Conference's regional Associate Conference Ministers. The pastor was trained at Andover Newton Theological School, a UCC seminary. She received financial aid from the Conference's Bennie Whitten Seminary Debt Reduction Fund, which has allowed her to accept the salary offered by this small church. The pastor is a member of a Clergy Community of Practice, which helped support her through some difficult issues.

The congregation rises to sing a hymn out of the UCC New Century Hymnal. Worship this morning incorporates ideas gained at a Pastoral Excellence workshop sponsored by the Conference. Mary follows along with the scripture reading in the pew Bible from United Church Press. A lay person does the call to offering, testifying to the love the congregation showed her when her husband died suddenly. Having a lay person testify as the call to offering was an idea picked up from the Stewardship Committee at a Conference

stewardship event led by Jonathan New. Today a special offering – One Great Hour of Sharing - is also collected. Mary is delighted to be able to give to support this special UCC offering that provides disaster relief, refugee resettlement and development assistance to those in need around the world.

After the service, Mary goes to coffee hour, where she has a cup of delicious Equal Exchange Free Trade coffee that the church switched to as part of the UCC Coffee Project. Mary confirms her next Bible study meeting. They are currently using "Weekly Seeds," a free weekly Bible study from the UCC.

Mary is so happy to be part of this loving, faithful congregation. She was invited to attend by a friend. Her friend learned how to invite others at an evangelism training event offered by the Conference. Mary also checked out the church website. It had been updated and improved after the webmaster attended a "WebFest" event led by Tiffany Vail at the Conference. Mary's church also has a Facebook page, set up after attending a Super Saturday workshop on that topic

A member of the church grumbled to Mary, "What do we get for all this money we give to the wider church, anyway?" Mary hardly knew where to begin.

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!



Daily Lectionary Scripture References January 2018 (Year B)

Mon., Jan. 1

New Year's Day
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Tues., Jan. 2

Psalm 148
Proverbs 1:1-7
James 3:13-18

Wed., Jan. 3

Psalm 110
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 4:1-10

Thurs., Jan. 4

Psalm 110
Proverbs 3:1-12
James 4:11-17

Fri., Jan. 5

Psalm 110
Proverbs 22:1-9
Luke 6:27-31

Sat., Jan. 6

Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Jan. 7

The Baptism of Christ
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Mon., Jan. 8

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Genesis 17:1-13
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Jan. 9

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Exodus 30:22-38
Acts 22:2-16

Wed., Jan. 10

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Isaiah 41:14-20
John 1:29-34

Thurs., Jan. 11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:6-15
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Fri., Jan. 12

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:16-23
Acts 13:16-25

Sat., Jan. 13

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 2:21-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Sun., Jan. 14

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Mon., Jan. 15

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Tues., Jan. 16

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 15:10-31
Acts 5:1-11

Wed., Jan. 17

Psalm 86
Genesis 16:1-14
Luke 18:15-17

Thurs., Jan. 18

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 19:1-15
Revelation 18:11-20

Fri., Jan. 19

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:7-13
2 Peter 3:1-7

Sat., Jan. 20

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:14-18
Luke 10:13-16

Sun., Jan. 21

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Mon., Jan. 22

Psalm 46
Genesis 12:1-9
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tues., Jan. 23

Psalm 46
Genesis 45:25—46:7
Acts 5:33-42

Wed., Jan. 24

Psalm 46
Proverbs 8:1-21
Mark 3:13-19a

Thurs., Jan. 25

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 3:23-29
Romans 9:6-18

Fri., Jan. 26

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 12:28-32
Revelation 2:12-17

Sat., Jan. 27

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 13:1-5
Matthew 8:28—9:1

Sun., Jan. 28

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Mon., Jan. 29

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Tues., Jan. 30

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wed., Jan. 31

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20



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