

**North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
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**Return Service Requested
Dated Material**

December 2020



The Sandpiper is a monthly publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.
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The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

December 2020

Pastor's Message

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. —Isaiah 9:6

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when relatives start asking what we want for Christmas. What I really wish for this year are the things of Advent—hope, joy, love, and peace. I want them beautifully wrapped and carefully placed under everyone's Christmas tree, so that on Christmas morning the delightful promises of Advent are opened and freely shared like a box of chocolates.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we always focus on hope first. Why is that? Perhaps it is because hope cracks open the door for God's love joy, and peace to enter. Hope is threaded throughout Advent as we wait and prepare our hearts in anticipation of Christ's coming. Yet, hope in Jesus comes from more than the belief that he was once a baby in a manger. It is something deep within that is woven through the fabric of our lives, even when it feels like life is being torn apart.

When life is unraveling the enormity of it can make us feel stuck. Anne Lamott writes in her book, *A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair*, "If you fixate on the big picture, the whole shebang, the overview, you miss the stitching. And maybe the stitching is crude, or is unraveling, but if it was precise, we'd pretend that life was just fine and

running like a Swiss watch. This is not helpful if our understanding is that life is more often like a cuckoo clock with rusty gears."

So what do we do when life's problems threaten to overwhelm us? Lamott tells the story of "a sparrow lying in the street with its legs straight up in the air, sweating a little under its feathery arms. A warhorse walks up to the bird and asks, 'What on earth are you doing?' The sparrow replies, 'I heard the sky was falling, and I wanted to help.' The horse laughs a big, loud, sneering horse laugh, and says, 'do you really think you are going to hold back the sky, with those scrawny little legs?' And the sparrow says, 'One does what one can.'"

This year has been messy and difficult for many of us. We have all been challenged in some way by the pandemic, and the divisions in our country have left us feeling anxious about the future. But each of can be open to doing what we can and trusting God to do the rest. Perhaps this is the best gift we can wrap up and give to each other this year—doing what one can for each other to bring Christ's light into these dark times.

May the blessings of Christ's birth be incarnated in you.

Christmas blessings,

Pastor Christina

UPCOMING WORSHIP – December

As the weather gets colder, the services will be live from the sanctuary. Because of state regulations, our sanctuary is too small to have in-person worship at this time.

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

I Believe in Love – Communion Sunday

In both the Gospel of Matthew and Isaiah, a messenger appears as a sign from God, heralding a new era. In each passage, the words “do not be afraid” appear referencing something that induced fear. A new way of being, of relating and loving takes courage. **Scripture:** Isaiah 7:10-14, Matthew 1:18-

December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

I Believe in God – Ode to Joy

Deciding to become a part of the early Christian movement could bring punishment for your allegiance. Like the Jewish exiled people of Isaiah’s time and the early Christians, we also sometimes wonder where God is in our suffering. We long to hear the promise that a reason for joyful praise is the good news on the way! **Scripture:** Isaiah 57:14-19, Luke 1: 26-56

December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

I Believe in the Light – Illuminating Peace

The “great light” prophesied by Isaiah is echoed in John’s Gospel: the light that brings peace and saves people from all that would extinguish it—has been there from the beginning. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. **Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2-7, John 1:1-14

December 25 – Christmas Eve

We Believe Even Now

Christmas Eve will be an outdoor service of Lessons and Carols. Every year, we return again to the beloved stories of Christ’s birth on this holy night. We yearn to see the scene play out, to hear the music of the angels, to feel the rush to the manger, to see what the star that pierces the night sky has come to proclaim. We desire to hear and believe the Good News—for unto us a sign has come that will be to all people...

December 27 – Christmastide Sunday – TBA

December Birthdays



12/06	Connie Gawarkiewicz
12/12	Brian Latimer
12/14	Kayleigh Sanders
12/20	Roberta Markham
12/23	Helen Sievert
12/25	Katie Weldon
12/28	Delaney Clements
12/29	Ava Gray



Happy Birthday

Christian Education

"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

This verse is especially meaningful to me now as I reflect upon all of your kindness on my last Sunday as your Christian Education Director, as well as on all of the years we have spent together at NFCC. I am extremely grateful for all of the gifts and meaningful words you shared.

There are so many special things we have all experienced over the years - fun and fellowship, learning and giving to others - and it is good to know that all of this will continue with Pastor Christina's wonderful leadership and all of your many volunteer hours.

Our years of friendship will be special to me always. I am fortunate to have so many cherished memories. It has been a particular privilege to have seen the children grow in life and faith. Several of them were not even born when I arrived and some have gone from middle school students to young adults. I am honored to have been a witness to a small part of their young lives.

I remain a part of the Falmouth community and will certainly see you in days to come. Please know how much it has meant to me to be a part of the NFCC church family. Thank you for your prayers and support and most especially your love.

God bless you all.

Lisa



Lisa, we will all miss you!! Thank you!!

Thanksgiving Sunday



Brenda Clements paying tribute to the many years of service by CE Director Lisa Allen.



The beautiful cornucopia designed by Marsha Martin & Carolee Packard



The beautiful cradle designed by Mike Ryan and built by the CE children for the Clements family.



Decorating the Church for Advent

CHRISMONS..... Again this year, the Altar Committee has decorated the sanctuary for Advent and the Christmas season. The white and gold ornaments on the tree and the wreath are called Chrismons. They were handmade by the ladies of our church back in the 1980's. The original Chrismons were developed in 1957 at a Lutheran church in Virginia as a decoration appropriate for the church Christmas tree as opposed to the colored lights and secular symbols being used at that time. The Chrismons are Christian symbols made in white with gold decorations. "Chrismons cannot be bought or sold; they can only be made to give in love and in celebration of Christ's birth." The NFCC is truly fortunate to have these beautiful symbols of the true Christmas decorating our sanctuary.



The finished tree with the Crèche



Marsha putting the finishing touches on the wreath



Jean, Jean and Pastor Christina hanging the Chrismons while Cindy prepares the window lights



Jean placing the candles on the advent wreath





The finished advent wreath



Carolee placing one of two of her beautiful swags on the front door



And placing the wreath on the side door



Cindy finishing up one of the windows




A HUGE thank you to Laura Murphy & brother Robert Willman for donating the outdoor tree for the shell ornaments



Bill Martin & David O'Hara securing the tree in place.



Upper Cape Chaplaincy



570 MacArthur Blvd, Pocasset, Massachusetts, 02559
508-564-6464




Take Out or Dine In !

DINING FOR A CAUSE!
11:30 am to 9:00 pm
December 10, 2020

Stir Crazy - Cambodian Cuisine
Upper Cape Chaplaincy - Interfaith Pastoral care
20% of your bill donated to the UCC!




As a board member of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy from NFCC, I urge each of you to consider purchasing a meal (either take-out or dine-in) from Stir Crazy Cambodian Restaurant on Thursday, December 10th in support the spiritual counseling provided at Falmouth Hospital and some of the long term care facilities in our area. The staff and well as the patients and families benefit from this much appreciated service. Rev. Saramaria Allenby is now one of the chaplains at the hospital along with two other local clergy. Please refer to the bulletin or contact Marsha Martin for more details.



Stewardship – "Together in Joy We Can"



TOGETHER IN JOY
WE CAN

Thanks to all of you who have turned in your pledge card for 2021. We ask that any of you who have yet to do so, please mail in your pledge card at your earliest convenience. You can also turn in your pledge card during any outdoor Sunday Worship. Again, thank you for your generosity and commitment to support our Church and Community.

The Altar Committee would like to thank all of those who participated in decorating the Church for Advent. It takes a team of elves!





Christmas Shell Tree

“In Celebration of the Christmas Spirit”, the outdoor Shell Christmas Tree is given in memory of their Mom, Ruth Willman, with love from Laura Murphy and Laura’s awesome brother Robert Willman.

We thank all our members and friends, who have purchased shells to decorate the tree and add to the beauty of our Christmas this year.

Given By:

Hank Bertsch

John & Sandra Checklick

Kay & Bill Clark

The Clements Family

The Davock Family

Ken Evans

The Holmes Family

Winthrop Frame

Cynthia Kaleskas

Joyce Kenneally

Sue Long

Bill & Marsha Martin

Marge Marshall

Laura Murphy

Camilla Nevius

Myrna & David O’Hara

The Don Packard Family

In Loving Memory of:

Gail Bertsch

Our Parents

Parents, Alice & William Clark

Parents, Mary & Hubert Birt

Rev. Robert W. Markham & Ted Clements

Donald N., Bradford S. & Scott C. Davock

MaryAnn Evans

Quentin Holmes

Edith & Winthrop Bowler,

Ann & Charles Frame

Ed Kaleskas, Lowell Sisters

Paul Kenneally, Parents of Joyce Kenneally

Charlie Long

Isabel & Harry Bateman, John F. Martin

Cecelia Martin

Donald Marshall

Sally Morner

Of Friends & Family

Gladys & Robert Hoke, Betty & Gerry O’Hara

Don Packard Jr.

Merry Packard Delong

Jean DeLorme

Cousins

Parents & Grandparents

Given by:

Toby & Mike Ryan

Linda & Phil Thomas

The Weldon Family

Christina Williams

Given by:

John & Sandra Checklick

Jan & Hal King

Adrienne Latimer

Laura Murphy

Jean & Tim Sawyer

John & Betsy Woodley

The Young Family

Given by:

Cynthia Kaleskas

Patricia A. Peterson

In Loving Memory of:

Our Parents: Jack & Shirley D. Ryan
Bob & Shirley L. Fleischman

Andrew Thomas
Proctor Ransden
Jean Hudson-Ransden

Jim Weldon

Christina's Dad & Mom, Bill
& Margaret Rutter
Christina's beloved Grandmother
& Grandfather, Margaret J. Rutter &
Walter Rutter

In Celebration of:

Their Daughter, Susan
Their Daughter, Nancy
Their Granddaughter: Lily

Our Grandchildren: John, Sarah,
Caitlyn & Douglas

Our Loving Church Family

My Family

A Better 2021

Our Grandchildren, Laura,
Christina & Benjamin

Ma, Baba, Charlie, & Catie

In Honor of:

LTC Matt Kaleskas

Eric, Amy, Darolyn, Rick, Brita, Bill, Jason
Rebecca, Lucas, Cooper, Darroll, Pat

Thank you to all who stepped forward and contributed time, equipment and purchased shells to create our beautiful outdoor Christmas Tree in a year when we could not gather for celebration inside.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References -December 2020 (Year B)

Tues., Dec. 1
Psalm 79
Micah 4:6-13
Revelation 18:1-10

Wed., Dec. 2
Psalm 79
Micah 5:1-5a
Luke 21:34-38

Thurs., Dec. 3
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Hosea 6:1-6
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Fri., Dec. 4
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acts 11:19-26

Sat., Dec. 5
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Ezekiel 36:24-28
Mark 11:27-33

Sun., Dec. 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Mon., Dec. 7
Psalm 27
Isaiah 26:7-15
Acts 2:37-42

Tues., Dec. 8
Psalm 27
Isaiah 4:2-6
Acts 11:1-18

Wed., Dec. 9
Psalm 27
Malachi 2:10-3:1
Luke 1:5-17

Thurs., Dec. 10
Psalm 126
Habakkuk 2:1-5
Philippians 3:7-11

Fri., Dec. 11
Psalm 126
Habakkuk 3:2-6
Philippians 3:12-16

Sat., Dec. 12
Psalm 126
Habakkuk 3:13-19
Matthew 21:28-32

Sun., Dec. 13
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mon., Dec. 14
Psalm 125
1 Kings 18:1-18
Ephesians 6:10-17

Tues., Dec. 15
Psalm 125
2 Kings 2:9-22
Acts 3:17-4:4

Wed., Dec. 16
Psalm 125
Malachi 3:16-4:6
Mark 9:9-13

Thurs., Dec. 17
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
2 Samuel 6:1-11
Hebrews 1:1-4

Fri., Dec. 18
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
2 Samuel 6:12-19
Hebrews 1:5-14

Sat., Dec. 19
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Judges 13:2-24
John 7:40-52

Sun., Dec. 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Mon., Dec. 21
Luke 1:46b-55
1 Samuel 1:1-18
Hebrews 9:1-14

Tues., Dec. 22
Luke 1:46b-55
1 Samuel 1:19-28
Hebrews 8:1-13

Wed., Dec. 23
Luke 1:46b-55
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Mark 11:1-11

Thurs., Dec. 24
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Fri., Dec. 25
Christmas
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
John 1:1-14

Sat., Dec. 26
Psalm 148
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15
Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

Sun., Dec. 27
First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Mon., Dec. 28
Psalm 148
Jeremiah 31:15-17
Matthew 2:13-18

Tues., Dec. 29
Psalm 148
Isaiah 49:5-15
Matthew 12:46-50

Wed., Dec. 30
Psalm 148
Proverbs 9:1-12
2 Peter 3:8-13

Thurs., Dec. 31
New Year's Eve
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

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