

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

**Return Service Requested**  
**Dated Material**

**December 2022**



*The Sandpiper* is a monthly publication of the North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC.  
The Reverend Christina Williams, Pastor (508) 563-2177, [www.northfalmouthucc.com](http://www.northfalmouthucc.com)







# The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ

December 2022

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



*"I will light candles this Christmas, candles of joy,  
despite all sadness..." –Howard Thurman*

Dear Friends,

Joy is in the hum of the universe. It is the luminous web flung across the night sky. It is the effervescence of gratitude. It lightens burdens with its exclamations. It sits next to sorrow waiting for that graced moment of being felt and seen. It is more enduring than happiness could ever hope to be. It takes the sting out of bitter hearts. It seizes us when least expected. It is in the details so quickly passed by. It is the singular, bright yellow dandelion blooming on a November day. What is joy to you?

The Christmas story and Jesus' birth are swaddled in joy. The angels brought "good tidings of joy" to the shepherds. The Wise men "rejoiced with exceedingly great joy" when they saw the guiding star in the eastern sky. And Elizabeth's baby leapt in her womb with joy when Mary's voice was heard. When Jesus lay in a manger, an angelic choir burst forth in song, "Glory to God, in the highest." Perfect joy spilled forth into the messiness and untidiness of our world.

Christmas somehow makes us aware of the distinction between "happiness" and "joy." None of the Christmas scriptures or greetings would feel quite right if the word happiness was substituted for the word joy. Joy is somehow a higher, deeper, more magical, and more magnificent.

Every Christmas Eve and every Christmas pageant, joy is palpable and real. We see it in the children's faces. We hear it when singing "Joy to the World." We experience in the quiet sanctuary lit only with candlelight while singing "Silent Night".

Joy is the gift of love God gave to us when God became one of us to walk with us, laugh with us, cry with us, suffer with us, die with us, and rise with us. There is no greater joy in knowing the depth, width, height, and length God will go to save us. May that holy joy settle deep within your bones and burst forth like angels' voices this Christmas.

Blessings for a joy-filled Christmas!

Pastor Christina

# December Birthdays



- 12/06 **Connie Gawarkiewicz**
- 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

## ServSafe Food Manager Food Certification

All commercial kitchens are required by the Board of Health to have someone onsite who is a certified ServSafe Food Manager. Our church is currently looking for a volunteer to become certified. A training course is being offered in Barnstable for two, 4-hour sessions 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Mondays, January 23 and 30. The next course is in March. The church will cover all costs. See poster below.

The important part of this work is to ensure those preparing and serving food know the rules: how to sanitize the counters, washing and drying pots and dishes, use of gloves for one thing, cooking temperatures to kill bacteria, and not to serve if you have a cold or other illness.

If you feel called to help the church in this way, please contact Pastor Christina [pastornfcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastornfcc@gmail.com).






**Barnstable**

Barnstable County Harborview Conference Room  
3195 Main Street, Barnstable, MA 02630  
1/23/23 & 1/30/23

Class Not Included  
Pre-registration  
Required

Full Course  
FIM Served!

**ServSafe Food Safety Certification Course \$175.00**  
Attendance both days is required  
Includes practice exam & current ServSafe test  
Both Classes are held 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Covers: Time/temperature control, preventing cross contamination, and proper heating and cooling

**ServSafe Recertification (expired or expiring certificate) \$75.00**  
Attendance is required on day two only!  
1.5 - 2 hour review from updated materials

Online study materials for recertification is strongly recommended and can be found at:  
[www.capecod.gov/servsafe](http://www.capecod.gov/servsafe)

Exam with certificate is valid for 5 years with a passing score  
Course fee is non-refundable. E-mail confirmation confirms registration in the class.  
[Contact Dawn Johnson at 508-375-6690 or dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org with any questions](mailto:dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org)

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Please contact Justyna Marzec, Barnstable County ADA Coordinator at [jmarzec@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:jmarzec@barnstablecounty.org) or call 508-375-6646 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Month/Day(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business Town \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Barnstable County** and mail to:  
Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 367, Barnstable, MA 02630





*Decorating the Church for Advent  
Friday November 26<sup>th</sup>*



**Leslie & Keira placing the star on the tree's top.**



**Carolee arranging the choir loft swag.**



**Marsha & Jean with the window candles.**



**A very merry Christmas from Linda!**





**Linda placing the Chrismons.**



**The outdoor shell tree being secured by David.**



**The beautiful altar with the Advent Wreath and the indoor tree with the Chrismons.**



**Bill hanging the shells on the gorgeous tree donated by the Packard Family in loving memory of Don.**





**The lovely Christmas Swags on our front door.**



The Sanctuary and outside Christmas Shell Tree are now decorated for the Advent Season and Christmas through Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to a multi-generational group of individuals including Sarah Bach, Jean Davock, Bill & Marsha Martin, Lesley, Graham & Keira Murphy, David O'Hara, Carolee Packard, who all worked as a team to make the beautiful transformation.

A special thanks to Chris Polloni, Bill Martin and David O'Hara for troubleshooting after the heavy rain to get lighting back on the Christmas tree.

Also a special thanks to Marcia McLaughlin for printing names on the shells & the Packard Family for donating the beautiful tree!



### ***From the Treasurer***

Through November we were running very close to budget on net income. The shortage in member contributions and fundraising revenue were offset by expense savings due to the open positions of Music Director and Whole Life Director. We are facing significant increases in gas and electric expenses which are expected to carry forward into 2023.

### ***Stewardship Pledge Drive "Re-membering Community"***

Thank you to all of you who returned your pledge card for the coming year. If you intend to pledge but have yet to return your pledge card we ask that you mail it in at your earliest convenience or put it in the offering plate on Sunday. If you need a pledge card, please contact Debbie Pinkney.



### ***Outreach Thank You Letters***





**BELONGING TO EACH OTHER**  
*helping Falmouth men and women experiencing homelessness*

November 17, 2022

Pastor Christina Williams  
 P.O. Box 403 155 Old Main Road  
 North Falmouth, MA 02556

Dear Christina:

On behalf of Belonging to Each Other, Inc. (BTEO) please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of \$200. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of your congregation. The funds will be used during our eighth season to provide housing and case management services to local people experiencing homelessness during the cold-weather months as well as case management year-round.

BTEO is grateful to have received \$7,500 in matching funds from The Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation. Your kind gift has helped us double the impact as we serve people in the community experiencing homelessness. This support will bring light into people's eyes as they get back on their feet and regain their dignity.

Again, our deepest gratitude for being a steadfast supporter of BTEO. Your church's generosity allows us the privilege of caring for our neighbors in need. May we ask you to please share this letter with your congregants?

Warmly,

*Lynn O'Neill*

Lynn O'Neill  
 BTEO, President

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 Gina Tarant

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 Michael Kasperson, President and CEO, Falmouth Chamber of Commerce  
 Matt Rucinski, Owner, The Clean Man Inc.  
 David Weiss, State Representative, Falmouth Town Meeting Moderator  
 Alan Wilson, Mission Consulting

Upper Cape Chaplaincy  
 P O Box 482  
 East Falmouth, MA 02536

November, 2022

Rev. Christina Williams  
 North Falmouth Congregational Church  
 155 Old Main Road  
 North Falmouth, MA 02556

Rev. Williams,

Thank you very much for your church's two very generous donations totaling \$1850.00 to the Upper Cape Chaplaincy in 2022.

For over twenty years the mission of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy has been able to provide high quality professional chaplaincy services to healthcare institutions on Upper Cape Cod. The Chaplaincy provides and monitors pastoral care services for the patients, families and staff of these healthcare facilities in an ecumenical and interfaith manner.

We very much appreciate your financial support of the vital work of our chaplains.

Blessings,

*Ann Stone* Rev. Williams - Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Chaplaincy!  
 Ann Stone, President

For the Board of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy

Note: The Upper Cape Chaplaincy is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

**THE CAPE COD FOUNDATION**  
*Building Resilience. Sharing Opportunity.*

261 White Fish Unit 2  
 South Yarmouth, MA 02564  
 p: 508 752-2042  
 f: 508 752-6855  
 capccodfoundation.org

November 21, 2022

North Falmouth Congregational Church, Inc.  
 PO Box 403  
 North Falmouth, MA 02556

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your donation of \$125.00 to the No Place for Hate Falmouth Fund, administered by The Cape Cod Foundation. Your gift is deeply appreciated and will certainly have a positive impact in the community.

The Foundation was established in 1989 with a single fund. Today, we administer more than 300. Each one was created by an individual or a group who wanted one thing: to make a difference. Individually, our funds have accomplished great things. Collectively, since inception, we have distributed more than \$90 million in grants and scholarships back into the community. Where it belongs.

When you support a single fund, you support an entire philanthropic network. For good.

Once again, thank you for your gift.

Sincerely,

*Erin O'Malley*

Erin O'Malley  
 President and CEO

Check Number: 5974  
 Check Date: November 8, 2022  
 Amount: \$125.00

Under the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, we must inform you that the entire amount of your gift represents a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes, and we have granted no goods or services to you in return for your gift. In addition, you have not received any direct benefits from your contribution to The Cape Cod Foundation except the satisfaction of knowing that through your gift you have helped us to carry out our mission. The Cape Cod Foundation has exclusive legal control over the assets contributed.

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Friends Office:  
 P.O. Box 144  
 121 Main Street  
 Buzzards Bay MA 02532  
 Tel: 508-759-3516  
 Fax: 508-759-7896  
 www.friendsofbournecoa.org

**FRIENDS OF BOURNE**  
 COUNCIL ON AGING  
 FOOD PANTRY

Friends Food Pantry:  
 P.O. Box 144  
 121 Main Street  
 Buzzards Bay, MA 02532  
 Tel: 508-759-3351  
 Fax 774-355-1196

November 29, 2022

North Falmouth Congregational Church  
 PO Box 403  
 North Falmouth, MA 02556

Dear Mr. Roth:

The Friends of Bourne Council on Aging gratefully acknowledge your generous and heartfelt donation of five bags of food from your Cornucopia Food Drive to the Friends Food Pantry.

Your donation will help to support the more than 300 families, an average of 700 individuals, who receive food every month.

Without your help, we would not be able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable which include the seniors and the disabled within our community.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your commitment to the Friends food Pantry.

Sincerely,

*Peter Lindberg*

Peter Lindberg  
 President

Note: In compliance with the IRS Code Section 170(b)(6), this receipt serves as verification that no goods or services were received in consideration of this gift from me or Friends of Bourne Council on Aging.





**Daily Lectionary Scripture References – December 2022 (Year A)**

**Thurs., Dec. 1**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 4:2-6  
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

**Fri., Dec. 2**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 30:19-26  
Acts 13:16-25

**Sat., Dec. 3**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
John 1:19-28

**Sun., Dec. 4**

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

**Mon., Dec. 5**

Psalm 21  
Isaiah 24:1-16a  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

**Tues., Dec. 6**

Psalm 21  
Isaiah 41:14-20  
Romans 15:14-21

**Wed., Dec. 7**

Psalm 21  
Genesis 15:1-18  
Matthew 12:33-37

**Thurs., Dec. 8**

Psalm 146:5-10  
Ruth 1:6-18  
2 Peter 3:1-10

**Fri., Dec. 9**

Psalm 146:5-10  
Ruth 4:13-17  
2 Peter 3:11-18

**Sat., Dec. 10**

Psalm 146:5-10  
1 Samuel 2:1-8  
Luke 3:1-18

**Sun., Dec. 11**

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

**Mon., Dec. 12**

Psalm 42  
Isaiah 29:17-24  
Acts 5:12-16

**Tues., Dec. 13**

Psalm 42  
Ezekiel 47:1-12  
Jude 17-25

**Wed., Dec. 14**

Psalm 42  
Zechariah 8:1-17  
Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

**Thurs., Dec. 15**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:1-17  
Galatians 3:23-29

**Fri., Dec. 16**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:18-22  
Galatians 4:1-7

**Sat., Dec. 17**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:23-29  
John 3:31-36

**Sun., Dec. 18**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Mon., Dec. 19**

1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Genesis 17:15-22  
Galatians 4:8-20

**Tues., Dec. 20**

1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Genesis 21:1-21  
Galatians 4:21–5:1

**Wed., Dec. 21**

1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Genesis 37:2-11  
Matthew 1:1-17

**Thurs., Dec. 22**

Luke 1:46b-55  
Isaiah 33:17-22  
Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

**Fri., Dec. 23**

Luke 1:46b-55  
2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29  
Galatians 3:6-14

**Sat., Dec. 24**

*Christmas Eve*  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Sun., Dec. 25**

*Christmas Day*  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

**Mon., Dec. 26**

Psalm 148  
Wisdom 4:7-15  
Acts 7:59–8:8

**Tues., Dec. 27**

Psalm 148  
Proverbs 8:22-31  
1 John 5:1-12

**Wed., Dec. 28**

Psalm 148  
Isaiah 49:13-23  
Matthew 18:1-14

**Thurs., Dec. 29**

Psalm 20  
Jeremiah 31:15-22  
Luke 19:41-44

**Fri., Dec. 30**

Psalm 20  
Isaiah 26:1-9  
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**Sat., Dec. 31**

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

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