

**North Falmouth Congregational Church, UCC
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The Sandpiper



North Falmouth Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

December 2021

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dear Friends,

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Advent is a time of intentionally waiting in the darkness for the coming of God Emmanuel. But who has time for waiting during the holiday season? We're too darn busy planning, shopping, decorating, preparing, and cooking for Christmas on top of all the regular stuff life demands of us.

In this world of instant gratification, waiting is a lost art. We don't like waiting at stoplights, in traffic jams, or in long lines at the grocery store. Hey, we've got places to go, people to see, and things to get done before our head hits the pillow for the night. Every second counts.

This all adds up to the fact that we aren't very good at waiting. And when it comes to waiting on God for something, we discover all too quickly God is not on our timetable. St. Augustine had something to say about this, "If God seems slow in responding, it is because God is preparing a better gift. God will not deny us. God wants you to have a lively desire for God's greatest gifts. All of which is to say, pray always and do not lose heart." Waiting on God is never in vain.

In Spanish, the word for wait is *esperar*, which is the root word for *esperanza*, the Spanish word for hope. The very act of waiting is filled with hope for something that is coming. There's hope in waiting for that Amazon package to come, a diagnosis, or a loved one to return home. Waiting on God is to hope for something greater than we could ever imagine or expect. Advent is a fervent reminder that God's gifts are worth waiting for.

Advent prayer: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, help me to wait patiently for the greatest gift all with the hope that you will always come through in ways I can't yet imagine. Amen.

Waiting in faith for Emmanuel to come once again,



Pastor Christina

UPCOMING WORSHIP – DECEMBER & JANUARY 2

All services will be live on Facebook. For in-person, please remember to wear your masks!

December 5 – 10 a.m. – Second Sunday in Advent
Peace: Clothed in Dignity

Our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table of grace, so that all might know the kind of holy peace that comes with being welcomed home—a place where all are seen, known, and loved. We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. **Scripture:** Baruch 5:1-7, Philippians 1:3-11.

December 12 – 10 a.m. – Third Sunday in Advent
Joy: How Much is Enough?

John invites us to live with changed hearts and changed lives by making sure no one is left without the basic necessities in life. A life full of joy, Isaiah describes, is like an ever-flowing spring that is the birthright for all God's children. **Scripture:** Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18

December 19 – 10 a.m. – Fourth Sunday in Advent
A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant!

Come join us for a no-rehearsal, instant pageant! Prepare yourself for a fun, all-age pageant in which everyone is invited to participate. Join us for a joy-filled morning with some holy chaos tossed in there as we tell the Christmas story and sing carols.

December 21 – 10 a.m. – Longest Night Interfaith
Candlelight Memorial Service

NFCC will host this interfaith service to remember

those men and women lost in 2021 on the Cape and Islands while experiencing homelessness. This service is sponsored by Belonging to Each Other, the nonprofit organization that provides temporary housing and social service for those experiencing homelessness in Falmouth.

December 24 – 7 p.m. –

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The long-awaited Messiah has been born and on him the light shines. We have only to open the doors of our lives to say, "welcome". Our Advent journey has led us to this moment when Christ's light opens the door to new possibilities filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. We celebrate the joy of Christ's birth with lessons, carols, and candlelight.

December 26 – 10 a.m. – Carol Sing

On the day after Christmas, please join us for a simple service of singing your favorite carols and hymns.

January 2 – 10 a.m. – Epiphany Sunday

We start the season of Epiphany journeying with the Wise Men on their way to see the Baby Jesus. In this untold version of the story, we find out what really happened when the four (yep, four) Wise Men followed the star. In this reader's theatre version, we discover the fourth wise man was a straggler. We will also celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. **Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12.

Dear North Falmouth Congregational Church, I send a big thank you for your love and support on the occasion of my husband's death last March. Your prayers and cards and concern for our family is much appreciated. We give thanks for Mark's life and for his release from dementia. Now he is whole again in God's eternal embrace. In this holiday season, the blessing of love is all around and we slowly see the way forward through the light of our faith. Much Love, Nancy Strickland and family

December Birthdays



Carolee accepting donations.

- 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**



People were very generous with donations!



Happy Birthday



Loaded up and ready to go.



Decorating the Church for Advent



CHRISMONS..... Once again this year, the Altar Committee 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 2022 Flower Calendar is up on the door near the church office. Please take a look and select any dates that are special to you for dedicating flowers in the coming year.



Thanksgiving Sunday



The beautiful Cornucopia designed by Beverly Blaine.



Advent



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



The beautiful flowers from Susan Fallavollita



The lovely Christmas Swags on our front door.

ADVENT WORKSHOP #1



The gorgeous tree with shell dedications



The first of several Advent workshops that will be posted each Sunday in Advent. Thanks, Carolee!



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



Reimagining Team Update

We had a very successful brainstorming session on November 7 in the sanctuary led by Don Remick. After listing many ideas, we voted on our top three choices. Below are the results of those votes.

The team is planning to kick off our projects with a parents' night pit (or late afternoon) in January, after the holidays. It will likely have a Valentine's Day theme and include making something for the children to take home and a movie.

Please pay attention to the announcements, since the team will need your help to carry this out. Specific details will appear next month and Pastor Christina will announce "jobs" from the pulpit. We welcome your participation—in fact, count on it as we reach out into the community and our own congregation for intergenerational engagement.

Top choices include:

- Engage in social justice project to foster community awareness (5)
- Create social media presence (4)
- Volunteer community media liaison/PR (4)
- Parents night out (4)
- Christmas party with Santa, gifts, and games (4)
- Sponsor classrooms/school supplies (4)
- Potluck suppers (3)
- Partnering with agencies on hunger, housing (3)
- Block party, local vendor participants, no fee craft fair/festival (3)
- Neighborhood library box (2)
- Casual worship, come as you are, not on Sunday (2)
- Homebased small group fellowship gatherings (2)
- Video series on "Why NFCC?" (2)
- Partner with HS music/art dept. (2)

Stewardship Pledge Drive "A Future with Hope"

Thanks to all of you who have turned in your pledge cards for 2022. And thanks to those of you who increased your pledge from last year. For those of you who have yet to turn in your pledge card, we ask that you turn it in at your earliest convenience. It is very important that we have a good idea of the amount of donations we can expect for the coming year so we can properly establish our budget for the year.



2022 Giving Envelopes

The 2022 giving envelopes will be available by the first of the year. This year, the 2022 envelopes will be different. Each box of envelopes will have 53 envelopes as in the past. However, the envelopes will not be numbered. This is being done because the number of church members who use envelopes is now fewer than 50. Prior to this we purchased 100 boxes of numbered envelopes. There are several reasons for this change: members send in their donations directly from their bank once a month; members mail in the donations once a monthly; members drop off their donations at Sunday services once a month; and members donate without using their box of numbered envelopes.

If you want to continue to use a box of envelopes during the coming year they will be available in front of the Church office soon. If your donation is in the form of check you do not need to put your name or envelope number on the front of the envelope. (Note: each member will retain the currently assigned envelope number.) **If your donation is in the form of cash, you will need to put your name and/or assigned envelope number on the front of the envelope so we can properly account for your donation.**

If you have any questions or need your envelope number, please contact John Checklick, Collector at 508-299-8232 or john.checklick@gmail.com.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – December 2021 (Year C)

Wed., Dec. 1

Psalm 90
Isaiah 1:24-31
Luke 11:29-32

Thurs., Dec. 2

Luke 1:68-79
Malachi 3:5-12
Philippians 1:12-18a

Fri., Dec. 3

Luke 1:68-79
Malachi 3:13-18
Philippians 1:18b-26

Sat., Dec. 4

Luke 1:68-79
Malachi 4:1-6
Luke 9:1-6

Sun., Dec. 5

Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9or Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Mon., Dec. 6

Psalm 126
Isaiah 40:1-11
Romans 8:22-25

Tues., Dec. 7

Psalm 126
Isaiah 19:18-25
2 Peter 1:2-15

Wed., Dec. 8

Psalm 126
Isaiah 35:3-7
Luke 7:18-30

Thurs., Dec. 9

Isaiah 12:2-6
Amos 6:1-8
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Fri., Dec. 10

Isaiah 12:2-6
Amos 8:4-12
2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Sat., Dec. 11

Isaiah 12:2-6
Amos 9:8-15
Luke 1:57-66

Sun., Dec. 12

Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Mon. Dec. 13

Isaiah 11:1-9
Numbers 16:1-19
Hebrews 13:7-17

Tues., Dec. 14

Isaiah 11:1-9
Numbers 16:20-35
Acts 28:23-31

Wed., Dec. 15

Isaiah 11:1-9
Micah 4:8-13
Luke 7:31-35

Thurs., Dec. 16

Psalm 80:1-7
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 10:10-18

Fri., Dec. 17

Psalm 80:1-7
Isaiah 42:10-18
Hebrews 10:32-39

Sat., Dec. 18

Psalm 80:1-7
Isaiah 66:7-11
Luke 13:31-35

Sun., Dec. 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm
80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Mon., Dec. 20

Psalm 113
Genesis 25:19-28
Colossians 1:15-20

Tues., Dec. 21

Psalm 113
Genesis 30:1-24
Romans 8:18-30

Wed., Dec. 22

Psalm 113
Isaiah 42:14-21
Luke 1:5-25

Thurs., Dec. 23

Luke 1:46b-55
Micah 4:6-8
2 Peter 1:16-21

Fri., Dec. 24

Christmas Eve
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Sat., Dec. 25

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

Sun., Dec. 26

First Sunday after Christmas
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Mon., Dec. 27

Psalm 148
Proverbs 8:32-36
John 21:19b-24

Tues., Dec. 28

Psalm 148
Isaiah 54:1-13
Revelation 21:1-7

Wed., Dec. 29

Psalm 147:12-20
1 Chronicles 28:1-10
1 Corinthians 3:10-17

Thurs., Dec. 30

Psalm 147:12-20
2 Chronicles 1:7-13
Mark 13:32-37

Fri., Dec. 31

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

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