

Order of Worship: Hanging of the Greens

The seasonal hangings today are Advent purple. Purple symbolizes two-things: 1) The Royalty of the One whose arrival we anticipate and prepare for; and 2) Repentance, which involves turning to the Light and Love of God, which is what we are called to do in order to prepare ourselves for the Christ Child's arrival.

Gathering Music

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland (BWV 659)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome

Rev. Will Burhans

Time of Silence

Prelude

Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Advent Wreath: Candle of Hope

Eforo Family

*Processional Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

PH #104

Call to Confession

Kathleen Zagata

Prayer of Confession

We come to You, O God, in this Advent season aware of our own faults and failings and conscious of Your glory and grace. In this season of waiting, forgive us for our impatience and restlessness. In this season of preparation, forgive us for being hasty and unconscious. In this season of hope, forgive us when we despair for the world. In this season of peace forgive us for our anxiety and contrariness. In this season of giving, forgive our greediness for what we merely want while others are without what they truly need. Forgive us O God for our sins that wound ourselves, others, and the very earth that You so love and lead us with the light of Your grace to a more faithful and grace-filled living in Jesus' name, Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

*Gloria In Excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the Highest!)

PH #116

Hanging of the Greens

The Sanctuary Evergreens

Georgia Keeler

Anthem

The Holly and the Ivy [2012]

English Carol/arr. Ola Gjeilo, b. 1978

The Christmas Poinsettia

Michelle Crawford

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night (verse 1)

PH #138

The Christmas Tree

Michaela Sansom

Carol

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How faithful are your branches!
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How faithful are your branches.
So green when summer breezes blow;
Still green amid the winter snow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How faithful are your branches!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.
Since evergreen your stand, we know
God doth eternal life bestow.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
O tree of green, unchanging.

The Crèche Time for the Young

Ben Pulaski

The Gifts of Christmas

Rev. Judy Arnold

The Offering

The Song of Saint Nicholas To the tune of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas"

(During the Song of Saint Nicholas, the children will join St. Nicholas in his procession and will return to sit with their families afterwards)

1. Once upon a long ago

Very far away,
In the town of Bethlehem
Lying in some hay,

Jesus came for you and me
Bringing heaven's love
As a gift for us to have
From the Lord above.

2. In the town of Myra once

Also long ago,
Lived good Bishop Nicholas
Hair as white as snow.

Nicholas loved Jesus who
Loved and helped us all.
"I will do the same," said he
"Helping great and small."

3. We should be like Nicholas

Thankful, good and kind,
Loving those who need our help,
All the ones we find.

Jesus and Saint Nicholas
Taught us how to give:
Share but never seek rewards,
That is how to live!

Scripture

Isaiah 42:1-4
Matthew 24:36-44

Liturgist: Rev. Judy Arnold
OT pg. 671, LP OT pg. 630
NT pg. 27, LP NT pg.24

Sermon

"Season of Desire"

Rev. Will Burhans

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

(Communion this morning is by intinction. Please come forward by the center aisle, receive the elements by dipping the bread in the juice and partaking. Return to your seat by the side aisles. Deacons will gladly bring the elements out to those who are unable to come forward. All the bread is gluten free.)

Closing Prayer (by Beth Merrill Neel)

O Jesus, our beloved, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out in the world, ambassadors of your hope and peace. Amen.

***Hymn**

Wait With Us (To the tune of "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus")

PH #103

1.Wait with us, this Holy Advent,
Wait for Jesus to appear.
Wait for incarnation's moment.
May the Spirit soon draw near.

2. Wait with us with hopeful yearning.
Clear the clutter of our days.
Free us from our anxious churning;
Fill our hearts and lift our gaze.

3.Wait with us; let peace live in us.
Draw us in, and make us whole.
Sons and daughters of your promise,
Heal our lives and calm our souls.

4. Wait with us for joy's surprises.
Light and gladness all around.
God our Wellspring, wonder rises.
Spirits primed, let joy astound.

5.Wait with us for love's fulfillment.
Word made flesh, God's gift profound.
Lead us to the life abundant,
Jesus comes, may grace abound!

(Written by members of this
congregation, the writing of this hymn
was made possible by Judith Arnold's
sabbatical grant, 2012.)

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent
10:00 Worship Service

Benediction/Passing of the Peace of Christ

Postlude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J.G. Walther (1684-1748)

Today's Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Osmon and Helen Tilton and Robert and Mabel McIndoe by the Robert McIndoe family.

P&D Fund

On Communion Sundays you will find envelopes for the Pastors' & Deacons' Fund. This fund offers monetary aid to congregation members who are experiencing an urgent need for financial crisis assistance. Please consider a donation as part of your worship today.

Deacons

The deacons serving today are: Leigh DuPuy Carlisle, Michelle Crawford, Kathy Mortenson, and Megan Scipione.

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation
21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180 www.fcc-winchester.org

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Text FCCW to 22828

People for Whom We Are Praying ...

| <u>Names</u> | <u>Purpose</u> |
|---|--|
| Don Martin, brother in law of Becky & Trent Parkhill | For healing and strength during chemotherapy |
| Eli Paxinos, 16-month-old great nephew of Tony & Pam McPherson | For comfort and care in his hospitalization while doctors seek a diagnosis. |
| Mimi Steffen, friend of Mike Redding | Healing as she recovers from a brain hemorrhage. |
| The Damren/Glacken Family | In their grief at the loss of Lillian. |
| Bruce Lauterwasser | As he starts the next round of chemotherapy. |
| Lucy Sanders | For healing. |
| Sarah Hebb Carpenter | For strength and healing from surgery on 9/9. |
| Olivia | For support in finding her way back. |
| Janet Snover | For strength in rehab to recover fully from her stairs fall. |
| Patricia, friend of the Dwelling Place | For strength & comfort in learning her cancer has spread to her liver. |
| Jessica Brand | For healing. |
| Janet Brewer | For healing. |
| Susan Zimmerman, Julianne's mother | For stabilization & relief from pain; and comfort for her family. |

Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know
if you have someone to add or remove from this list.

News & Upcoming Events

NCIS: New-Comers Inquiry Session

Sundays, December 1st immediately after worship in Rev. Will's Office

Join us in Rev. Will's office immediately following worship for a 45 minute session on First Congregational Church and our denomination - the United Church of Christ. If you're interested in becoming a member or just interested in learning more about the church, you are WELCOME! Brii will be down in the nursery for childcare for all-ages.

FCC Monthly Men's Group, Tonight, 7-9 PM,

4 Heritage Drive, Woburn (Paul and Lynne Rahmeier's house).

All FCC men and their guests are welcome. We discuss matters that are personal and spiritual. Pot-luck beverages or snacks are welcome but not expected. Questions to chris.noble@yahoo.com.

Advent Women's Gathering,

"Coming to Our Senses": All women of the church are invited to an evening of fellowship and centering as we embrace the tastes, textures, and tones of the season. Join us on Monday, December 9th from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Tucker-Palmer Rooms.

Environmental Ministries Team

On Sunday, December 8th the Environmental Ministries Team is holding an informational session concerning achieving Level Two of the Green Congregation Challenge. The Informational Session will be held in Chidley Hall after worship and during coffee hour. Our goal is to partner with the congregation towards earning Level Two, having successfully achieved Level One, and thereby recognized as an environmentally committed church by the United Church of Christ.

Ripley Presents: Dominique Dodge, Celtic Harper

December 13, 2019, 7:30 pm

Join us for an inspiring and family-friendly evening of seasonal Celtic music as well as material from Dominique's new album, featuring Gaelic songs, 18th century Irish harp tunes, lively jigs and reels - a unique combination of harp, song, and story for all who enjoy traditional music!

Tickets: \$10 General Admission, 18 & under are free

Youth Outreach Opportunities!

December 8th-Unite with Light Winchester Luminaries

Join the youth after church to put together 100 luminaries for the organization called Unite with Light Winchester. Unite With Light-Winchester is a town-wide Luminaria Night event organized by the children of Winchester to celebrate the beginning of the winter season with beautiful light and raise money for a child-charity that will strengthen our community and our world. This year, proceeds from the sales of the UWL-W luminaria kits will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation, MA & RI chapter

December 13/14th- Outdoor Church

The second Friday of every month the youth gather after school to make 50-75 sandwiches for the Outdoor church, which they as well as Temple Shir Tikvah delivery to the people of Cambridge. To sign up, email Ben Pulaski (ben.pulaski@gmail.com).

December 22nd-Cookie Walk

Each year the youth hosts a Cookie Walk during Advent. We would love to have you donate your favorite cookies (that are of course NUT FREE). Bring them to church with you on December 22nd with the list of ingredients. After church, everyone is encouraged to grab a dozen cookies with a donation to the youth mission trips this year.

Faith Formation

A Huge Thanks!

The Children and Youth Faith Formation Ministry would like to thank the hard work and dedication of all the teachers this year. In our youngest class, Janet Vaughn, Nancy Goodwin, Kristen Herlihy, Jen Ackil. In our 1st-3rd grade class, Patricia Brady, Phoebe Goodwin, Jennie Ryan, and Carolyn Plosky. In our 4th-5th grade class, Maggie Keeler and Michelle Stewart. In our Middle School class, Andy Gallop, Susan Rozmanith, Taylor Tresselt, Petra Sansom, and Andrew Sansom. In Forum, Andy McKinley, Betsy Goodell and Nick Wankowicz.

Stepping Stones

This week our children are reading Ruth 1:1-22. They are talking about how we need to love others even when times are tough. Be sure to ask your children how they can show God's love to their family.

Middle School and Forum

This week's story is the story of a poor woman who gave all she had from Mark 12:41-44. It's not the face value of what we do or offer Jesus that matters most. It's the sacrifice/heart behind it. Students will be challenged to consider that the state of their hearts toward God can be seen in what they do with the ordinary—do they love sacrificially? I encourage you to ask them what kind of things they find difficult to hand over to God.

3rd Grade Bibles

Each year, our 3rd graders receive a bible through a very special ceremony. December 8th will be this year's date for that. Please let me know if your third grader will like to be a part of the ceremony during the worship service.

Devotional for Advent

Advent begins today, December 1. To enrich this season, we're making available a daily devotional named and based on the hymn: *I Wonder As I Wander*. Not only does this daily practice deepen the Advent experience, it also connects us a community - everyone reading the same devotion each day. Look for them at the back of the sanctuary and on the table in the office lobby and take one.



You are invited to donate a chancel Christmas plant as a memorial or as a gift. Families will distribute plants to our shut-ins following the worship service on Sunday, December 22nd

This year plants will cost \$20.00. All orders are due by Wednesday, December 11

I wish to purchase _____ plant(s), which will be

In ___memory / ___ honor (please check one) of

Donor _____

Please return this form with a check payable to First Congregational Church, to the church office, or place it in an offering plate in an envelope marked "Christmas plants".

A Christmas Tradition of Joy!

Spread Christmas Joy by delivering a poinsettia to a member of our faith community at home and in a local care center. Plants will be available on Sunday, December 22nd after worship in the front of the sanctuary. Deliveries can be made on Sunday or during the first few days of the week.

2020 Pledge Campaign: November End Update

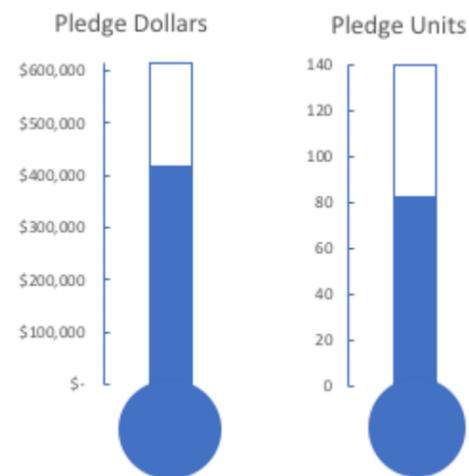
This week, the congregation's stewardship effort passed the 50% participation mark (whoop hoo!), with 83 pledges received (almost 60% of the 140 goal). This represents about **\$420,000** dollars pledged -- almost to **70%** of our **\$615,000 goal**. (See the "pledgometers" below!) Thank you, and please help reach the 2020 budget goal as we move into December! If have not already had a chance, you can mail your completed pledge card to the church in care of the Treasurer, Bruce Lauterwasser, or send an email with your confidential pledge amount to brucelauterwasser@gmail.com. You can also put your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday.

Your pledge before year end is important, as it helps the church's leadership to plan what resources are available as it determines the budget for next year. We will be following up in the next several weeks to wrap up the campaign before year end.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Financial Resources Ministry, Rev. Will or Rev. Judy, or Bruce Lauterwasser, Treasurer.

The Financial Resources Ministry is grateful for the generous and faithful response of FCCW's community each year to the Pledge Campaign!

Yours faithfully,
The Financial Resources Ministry



The Congregation, Ministers to the World

- Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor
- Rev. Ms. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor
- Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Congregational Health & Wellness
- Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts
- Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth
- Sarah Marino, Office Manager
- Ed Banzy, Building Manager
- Bill Lewis, Building Superintendent
- Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist
- Brianna Connolly, Nursery Supervisor
- Jose Foronda, Bookkeeper
- Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship. We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

We have an inductive hearing loop for those whose hearing aids have Telecoil. Listening devices are also available in the back. For our coffee hour in Chidley Hall, an elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there are trained caregivers in our nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room outfitted with a changing table, toys, rocking chairs, couches, a water bubbler and a video link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 8th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young Afterwards, the children and youth are led to their classrooms by their teachers.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service. Just head downstairs and towards the back of the church facility until you find the large hall, or follow the signs or pick up a laminated map to help guide you.