

First Parish Congregational Church

*Our mission is to reflect the **love of God** by welcoming all people into a life-changing, ever-growing relationship with Jesus.*



November 25, 2016

PASTOR'S PULSE

At this time of year, we often hear the phrase “*Keep Christ in Christmas.*” What can we do to make sure we experience that truth in our own lives? What practical steps can we take to focus on Emmanuel, “God with us?”

Borrowing from the ministry womenlivingwell.org, I would like to pass on twelve suggestions to Keep Christ in Christmas:

1. Open a Bible to Luke 2 and place it in the center of your decorations.
2. Pray over each individual as you write out your Christmas cards.
3. Drink hot cocoa and sing Christmas carols with your friends and children.
4. Do not try to create the perfect holiday. Relax. Enjoy.
5. Keep peace with your spouse. Be patient when tempers are short.
6. Invite someone new to visit your church.
7. Donate money, food, clothes or whatever you can give to charity.
8. Don't overspend. Be a faithful steward of your money.
9. Pray over your gift list, asking the LORD for guidance.
10. Take a minute each day to reflect on the reality of Emmanuel, “God with us.”
11. Call a friend or family member that you lost touch with over the last year.
12. Do a small, random act of kindness to touch someone with the love of God.

Let's enjoy a “Merry Christmas” together as we look to our coming Savior!

Pastor Greg

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November 29, 2016



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CANDLE OF PEACE

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Worship Service – 9:00 & 10:30 am

Guest Preacher
Reverend David Lang
Executive Director, New England
Aftercare Ministries

Calendar for Sunday, December 4, 2016

9:00 am Chapel Worship
10:00 am Prayer in the Chapel
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
(Infant and toddler care provided)
10:45 am Sunday School
11:45 am Fellowship
Noon Junior Choir rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers will be given in loving memory of
Frederick Stevenson Ross by his wife Ruth.

Greeters: Kathryn Millheim & Dona Cady

Ushers: Diane Deminski, Steve Gates, & Bonnie
Mullen (captain)

Coffee Hour Hosts: Linda Sabatula and friends



The Church Herald

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Gregory Hopwood, Pastor

One Church Street, PO Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301 (781)245-1539/1644
www.FPCCWakefield.org



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CANDLE OF JOY

Worship Service – 9:00 & 10:30 am

Guest Preacher
Reverend Terry Shanahan
NE Regional Pastor
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Calendar for Sunday, December 11, 2016

9:00 am Chapel Worship
10:00 am Prayer in the Chapel
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
(Infant and toddler care provided)
10:45 am Sunday School
11:45 am Fellowship
Noon Junior Choir rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the left will be given in loving
memory of Richard Sackett by Leith, Janice,
Lillian, and Leith Jones.

Greeter: Nancy Kunz

Ushers: Claire Atwater, Diane Deminski, Linell
Nester, Steve Gates, Linda Byam, & Bonnie
Mullen (captain)

Coffee Hour Hosts: Spring Fair Committee



Please Keep in Prayer

Prayers for healing:

MaryAnn Doherty (Benchmark in Woburn), Russell Fanjoy (recovering from ankle surgery), Domenic Mercurio, Warren Reeves (Bear Hill), Jean Sabatula (home), Dick Sullivan, Stephen Taylor, Angelique Toroni

Please continue to keep in your prayers:

Robert Blaser (Bob's dad), Stephen Donovan, Ed Foley, the Laboy family, John Oliphant, Jan Martin (residing at Sunrise in Lynnfield), Richard Pratt, Peter Rearick's Parents: Dan and Nancy, Albert Simkins, Janice and Irene Whitehead, Our missionaries around the globe: The Sturgeons, The Rideouts, The Mindlings, and The Soderbergs.



If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.



Prayer is the most powerful tool!

If you would like our First Parish Prayer Team praying for your needs, please fill out a prayer request. You will find the prayer cards in the back of the Sanctuary on the Williams Table. Our Prayer Box is also there to drop in your prayer request. They will be gathered up by the Prayer Team each week, and they will pray for your needs.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
November 20	25	119	144
November 27	20	99	119

SUNDAY SCHOOL

November 20	attendance not taken
November 27	Family Sunday

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 pm
Our annual *Messiah* Sing
in the sanctuary

For those who haven't been a part of this event in the past, here's what happens. Through the generosity of the Upham Fund, we are able to pay professional musicians (soloists and orchestra members) to perform the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah*, plus the Hallelujah Chorus (which is actually from the Lent/Easter section of *Messiah* in spite of the fact that we hear it most often at Christmas!). The best part about this is that the audience becomes the chorus! We hand out scores to anyone who doesn't have their own, singers sit by parts, and the conductors (Mike Salvatore of Emmanuel Church and myself) lead the audience in the choruses. Afterwards, the Music Committee sponsors a reception for all in the vestry. This is a free event, but a free-will offering is taken, and most of the proceeds after paying the musicians is always donated to a charity in Malden, *Housing Families*, which helps families in need find temporary housing; this is done in recognition of the fact that Handel wrote this monumental work as a fundraiser for an orphanage in London. Please do try to join us, either to sing along with the chorus, or just to listen. It's a marvelous respite from the "busy-ness" of the season!

Don Hodgkins, Director of Music Ministries

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank Tom King, Joe D'Agostino and Frank Brown for their help in assembling the Crèche last weekend. I would also like to thank all of those who helped to carry the figures out to the Crèche on Sunday.

Steve Gates

UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We would like to thank all of you who have offered to help our church in filling so many of the 19 committees that we have available each year. That being said, we are still reaching out to others who maybe haven't had a chance to speak to one of us or haven't decided yet where they could help. One of the most crucial positions is that of the TREASURER of our church. That would, of course, need to be someone who has some financial background. Hopefully there is someone who would be able to take on this position. We also have openings on other various committees. I will be in the vestry following worship for as many Sundays as it takes to help fill these positions. Please come and at least talk to me to see what might work for you and your schedule in supporting our church. If we don't have a position that will work for you, then at least you tried.

God Bless

Linda D'Agostino, Chair of Nominating Committee

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

85 shoeboxes filled with toys and toothbrushes and stuffed animals are on the way to children around the world! Thank you to everyone who generously shopped and packed boxes with toys and love and prayers for those who will receive your gift in the name of Jesus.

Thanks from Outreach

Our 375th Anniversary is Coming !!!

Even as we celebrate our 372nd birthday this month, early discussions have started to prepare for our 375th Anniversary in 2019. It will be here before you know it! If you would like to help in the planning, please contact Heather Hulse 781-738-2609 or Heather_hulse@hotmail.com

Coming this Week!

Friday, December 2, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in our church vestry

What has 320 plates, 288 forks, 30 pies plus cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, music, and needs 20 more pies to make 30 pies in all? Our Annual Pie Social!!! This is an opportunity for people to also **Discover First Parish** – our ministry and our hospitality. Each year approximately 300 people join us in the church vestry between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Some join us for a piece of pie! A warm beverage! Some did some Christmas shopping thanks to the Church Fair participation! Kids of all ages came to ring our church bell! Some did all of these things.

We have so much fun and receive so many compliments we decided to do it again this year. Your Board of Trustees has voted once again to host this year's **Discover First Parish** and we are asking for your help to make it a repeat great event.

How can you help? We need volunteers to serve as hosts and hostesses serving pie and beverages, to answer questions, to assist with the bell ringing, and we need pies (it takes a lot of pie to feed 300 people), paperware, beverages (hot chocolate, coffee, tea, spring water, punch).

Please let Barbara Flynn, the Church Office, or me (Marcia Phinney) know that you will be joining with us to show our First Parish hospitality. We hope they will like us so much they will want to become a part of our church family.

Thank You To all Who Worked at the
Holiday Fair Sweet Treats Tables and to
Those Who Donated Delicious Goodies

I want to thank all my sweet treats table
workers: Lisa Carpenter, Judy Gordon,
Ida Montgomery & Merrillyn Trubiano. Their
faithfulness is very much appreciated and
their talents many. Their friendly smiles lit up the
room and welcomed our fair guests warmly.

We received donations of not only delicious
baked goods but also homemade cranberry sauce,
hot cocoa mixes, jams, honey and Halloween candy
bars. Because of all the love that was poured into
the goodies and the whole event by so many, lots of
money was earned for the church. We all thank
you, God, for blessing us so abundantly!

Barbara Flynn

The Women's Council of Gordon-Conwell
Theological Seminary cordially invites you to
the beautiful South Hamilton campus on
Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
for our December program and luncheon – **A
Celebration of Advent in Lessons and
Carols**. Cost for the program and luncheon is
\$13.00. Register online at
[www.gordonconwell.edu/WomensCouncilEvent
Registration](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/WomensCouncilEventRegistration) or contact Erica Giovanniello at
978-646-4027 or by e-mail, EricaG@gcts.edu
by November 28, 2016 for reservations.

JOIN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS!

The Sanctuary Choir would welcome any
"booster voices" to help make our Christmas
music that much more inspiring. This is a
great opportunity for anyone who likes to
sing but can't quite commit to choir "full
time." You only need to attend 2 rehearsals,
Dec. 14 & 21, 7:30 - 9 pm, in the Choir
Room, then join us for the services on Dec.
18 and Christmas Eve at 11:00 pm. Hope you
can join us!



Poinsettia Sign-Up

Our sanctuary will be beautified on **Christmas
Sunday, December 18** with poinsettias, due to the
generosity of our church family who give donations
to purchase these beautiful flowers in memory of
loved ones. Contributions will be received through
December 14. After that date, any names received
cannot be listed in the worship bulletin. ***Please do
not remove poinsettias from the sanctuary.*** The
plants will be distributed by the Flower Committee,
members of our Diaconate and other volunteers.

I/We wish to contribute memorial poinsettias in
memory of:

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Donor: _____

Please enclose \$4 for each name (Mr. & Mrs. counts as
two names). Make check payable to "First Parish
Congregational Church." Checks may be mailed to: PO
Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301 or left in the church
office. Linda D'Agostino will also be in the vestry after
church on December 4 and 11 to receive your
contributions.



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One of our traditions is the lighting of the Advent wreath in the chapel/sanctuary. One lighted candle is added each Sunday of Advent, the fifth being lit on Christmas Eve.

We invite families/small groups within our congregation to light one candle each week. This is a simple act that includes some scripture and a prayer written for all to say. If interested, these are the dates and times:

Please write your name after the desired date and time and give to Ish Laboy or leave in the church office. Thank you for your participation.

December 18

9:00 am _____

10:30 am _____

Christmas Eve

11:00 pm _____

Book Shelf News

In December we are featuring books about Christmas. In January devotionals will be featured.

See our shelf in the Vestry for children's Christmas books and these selections:

- The Christmas Angel by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer
- The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel
- One That Night by Elizabeth Yates

EXCITING NEWS:

You can now view the listing of the books available in our library online! Please go to the FPCC website at <http://fpccwakefield.com/resources/library/> and

view the books that are available. You can search by title, author, and category: Christian Living, Christian Fiction, Audio Video, Youth and Other. We do not have the resources to view if a book has already been checked out of the library; however you can view our wonderful book selection!

Please come check out our books! Just fill out the orange card! Happy Reading!



MONDAYS

Did you miss our first get together? Never fear! We have another coming up in December and we would love to have you join us!

We welcome all Teens' Moms – and by that we mean Moms raising teenagers! Raising children is never easy. As our children become teenagers we are faced with new and constant challenges – whether it is their behavior, social media, school, friendships or something we haven't even heard of yet. What better way to combat these challenges than to combine our strength and support as Christian Moms? Join us for a relaxing evening out for fellowship and support!

Please join us
December 5, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
Border Café – Saugus, Rt. 1 North

Please respond if you are able to attend!
Nancy Kunz @ nrk1198@gmail.com
call/text @ [339-203-0174](tel:339-203-0174)

*Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit
Psalm 147:5*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2 **Pie Social** - 6 - 8 pm, Annual Event coinciding with lighting of the Town Common; Christmas music, pies, hot chocolate, coffee, etc.
- December 4 **Polymnia Choral Society Concert** – 3 pm in the sanctuary.
- December 10 **Living Nativity on the Common** – 5 pm with refreshments afterwards in church
- December 16 **Community Messiah Sing** – 7:30 pm – sanctuary, followed by a reception

- December 17 **Clothing Closet/Community Breakfast** - 9 am
- December 18 **Christmas Sunday – Family Sunday** - Poinsettias will again adorn our sanctuary
- December 24 **Children’s Pageant** – 5 pm
Carols, Candlelight, and Communion – 11 pm
- December 25 **Christmas Day, one service of worship,** 10:30 a.m.



CHURCH HERALD

First Parish Congregational Church
PO Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301
Phone: 781-245-1539/1644
E-mail: FPCCX1644@aol.com
Fpccwakefield.org

November 29, 2016

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD
Thursday December 8 , 2016**

(will cover the dates from December 18-31)