



NORTH WIND

Rejoicing in the Spirit ~ Celebrating Community

North Congregational Church New Hartford, CT 06057

December 2019



Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent.... Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise. ~ Karl Rahner "I am determined to enjoy each day to the fullest. I don't want to wish away Christmas. I want to enjoy these ...moments of Advent and look forward to Jesus's birth with anticipation." ~ Shelley Shepard Gray I'm guessing that I'm not the first pastor to reflect on the virtues of patience and of waiting, especially during the season of

Advent. The average, non-church going American likely doesn't even know that this period of preparation before Christmas exists. Just take a turn through the stores, even before Halloween, Christmas merchandise has begun to make its way onto the shelves. The saddest part of the premature arrival of the December holiday is that by the time December 25 arrives, most everyone has had enough of it.

But here in church, by honoring the liturgical calendar, we are given the opportunity to savor the time and allow the season to unfold in a meaningful way. Each Sunday has a theme and we light candles on our Advent wreath to meditate on each one: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

One of the reasons that I like to observe Advent....and insist that we do in church....is because there are so many wonderful Advent hymns that we will miss if we move directly into Christmas carols the Sunday after Thanksgiving. If you can't wait for Christmas carols there are many places to hear them, so feel free to find them, and sing them, for yourselves. But here in church, I hope you will appreciate our slow journey to Bethlehem, as we enjoy hymns such as "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates," and perhaps a few more beautiful ones that you have yet to learn.

Having said this, Shirley McCunn, our Music Director, has arranged for us to go Christmas caroling as a church family after worship on Sunday, December 15 to spread joy to the residents of Cherry Brook Health Center in Canton. Please come.

We have a calm and lovely Advent and Christmas planned here at North Church. There are only a few events, which we have printed in the "Sundays in December" section of this publication, so you should be able to make church a meaningful part of your celebration. And, as always, please invite relatives, friends and neighbors to join us. And there will be plenty of time to sing carols on both Christmas Eve and on Sunday, December 29, the Sunday After Christmas.

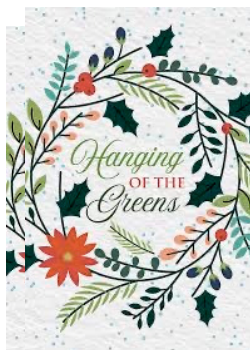
Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, Rev. Marcia



SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Advent Potluck and Workshop



Special HANGING OF THE
GREENS SERVICE

DECEMBER 8

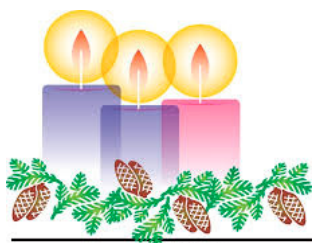


SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

THE SACRAMENT
OF
HOLY COMMUNION



DECEMBER 15



THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT



CHRISTMAS
CAROLING
AFTER A BRIEF
COFFEE HOUR

DECEMBER 22



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

SPECIAL
MUSIC BY
THE CHOIR



THE SACRAMENT
OF
BAPTISM

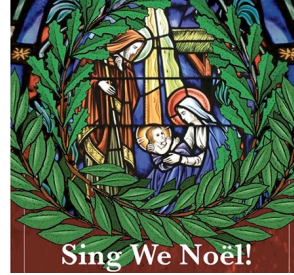
DECEMBER 24

Christmas
Eve
Worship



CHRISTMAS EVE,
SERVICE 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 31



THE FIRST
SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS
The stories of the
origins of some of
our favorite
Christmas Carols
and Christmas Carol
Sing



From the Deacons

I recently came across this beautiful poem by one of my favorite poets, Joyce Rupp. I hope it touches your heart as it touched mine!

Wishing you a blessed holiday season –

Fran Herman

"Christmas Blessing" by Joyce Rupp

May you give and receive love generously.
May this love echo in your heart like
the joy of church bells on a clear December day.
May each person who comes into your life
be greeted as another Christ.
May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem
be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.
May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.
May it be a foundation of courage for you
when times of distress occupy your inner land.
May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children
be awakened within you.
May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation
of whatever you too easily take for granted.
May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened
as you gather around the table of festivity and nourishment.
May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust
this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the One who offers you peace.
May you bring this peace into our world

I have returned to church and am back and doing fellowship.

The Trustee's Committee provided food for The November fellowship hour. December will be the Fellowship Committee.



In November we collected 100 lbs. Of food for the 2 food banks. Please take a bag from the Narthex and fill the bag. It is important to have food for the 2 local food banks.

On November 24th we had a welcome to our Church Reception for Jessica and Joe Sosnicki. I got a cake and we had other refreshments. It was a very nice day. We are happy to include them in our Church family.

For expenses for the month of Nov. I spent \$70.96 for supplies and we received \$6.90 in Donations.

Your financial support is needed in order for us to provide the refreshments we so enjoy. There is a basket on the food table for your donations..

Thank You.

Cele Hoffman, Chair Person



On Sunday, November 27 we welcomed this couple into membership in our congregation. I'll send a graphic.

JESSICA HENNESSEY SOSNICKI was born in Waterbury, Connecticut and grew up in Prospect. She graduated from Woodland Regional High School and attended the University of New

Haven from 2005-2006. She received her undergraduate degree in 2009 with degrees in Secondary Education and English and in 2016, her Master's degree in Special Education, both from Central Connecticut State University. She has taught at Southington and Danbury High Schools and is currently a high school English teacher at CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering. Her interests are reading, nature, family, traveling, tea, animals, hiking and cooking and baking. Her special talents are in cooking and connecting with challenging students.

JOSEPH SOSNICKI was born in Hartford, Connecticut, raised in Winsted, and lived in Terryville for ten years. He holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Northwestern Connecticut Community College. He was an EMT Supervisor with the Naugatuck Ambulance Corps and is currently a Supervisor at the Northwest Connecticut Public Safety Communication Center. His interests are reading, gardening, home improvement, hiking, biking and travel. His special talents are wiggling his ears and the ability to fix things.

He and Jessica were married on May 17, 2013 in Branford, Connecticut. They are the parents of Jaxson Joseph Sosnicki, born April 24, 2019. It will be our pleasure to baptize Jaxson here on December 22.

North Wind

North Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Worship.Church School Sundays 10:00 a.m.

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North Congregational Church, New Hartford, CT

STAFF:

The Rev. Marcia Lynn Cox, Designated Pastor

Shirley McCunn, Organist & Director of Music

Suzanne Czerwinski, Secretary

Nicole Misko, Director of Children's Ministries

Dave Holcomb, Sexton



Church Council

From the Moderator

This past fall, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ offered a series of webinars entitled "Navigating the Wilderness". It has been a thought-provoking series designed to address the

decline in church participation and ways to make church more enticing. I watched the third webinar of the series on 10/15. The focus in this session was to pose the questions: Why are you as a congregation here and What is your vision for the future.

Some things to consider include contrasting what we say our purpose is to what we actually do.

In order to be a spiritual entity on the community, three intangible components are needed: Belonging, Becoming, and Going Beyond. If we focus on fund-raisers, we are a social club and merely Belong. If we do some fund-raising and educating, we Become. But we need transcendence in order to go Beyond and find spiritual energy to prevail. These are concepts to strive for in our vision conversations and plans for the future. The CT UCC Conference has no specific answers to the current problem of a decline in religion/spirituality but they hope to inspire conversations to help everyone thrive.

To date, we have received pledges of \$22,660 from 15 members/families. We are very grateful to those who see the promise in our church community to carry on the work of Jesus' teaching. We are fortunate to have an unrestricted endowment but we have been drawing down quite a bit from the principle in order to meet our budget needs. In January we will continue our conversations about the future of our church. There is a lot for us to consider.

However, we don't have time to reflect and make the right decision without haste.

Sue Lachowicz, Moderator/Endowment chair

