

December, 2017

FRIENDLY MESSENGER

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A Word from Rev. Bob

Christmas Greetings in the Name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ:

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air." (Anonymous)

I'm sure we can all remember writing a Christmas wish list. Whether it was the media or influences from friends and family, we contemplated all year what we were going to bring to Santa's attention. More often than not, the list was composed of things we really didn't need. But from a child's view, it was urgent that Santa knew about these important items. After all, only he could fulfill them!

Now, as adults, what are the things we would put on that list today? Good health, vacation time, love, peace, more time with family and friends? The reality is, most of these items cannot be purchased.

What was on the Holy Family's list when they arrived in Bethlehem? For Joseph it was lodging and rest. For Mary, it was a comfortable place to give birth to Jesus. God fulfilled their wish list in a way neither of them could have ever imagined... a humble stable among the animals! I'm sure it wasn't what they expected, but in the end it met the need for the birthplace of the King of Kings. Lodging, rest, and a peaceful place to give birth with clean straw. What more could they ask for?

Too often, we ask to have our needs met and prayers answered our way. God's plan may not resemble anything we expected... yet the ultimate goal is accomplished. Mary and Joseph were God's obedient and humble servants. So if the manger was God's plan, I'm sure they were grateful for a place where these basic needs were met.

How about us? This coming year, are we open to God's alternative? Do we insist on things being done our way, or are we open to the leading of the Holy Spirit? As we celebrate Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day, let's remember to thank our Lord for prayers answered according to His will and plan.

Let's pack our flexibility and a cooperative attitude for this Christmas Season and into the year ahead.

May our hearts be united this coming month in thankful praise for what Jesus Christ is doing among us. See you in church!

Because He Lives,
Rev. Bob Jackson

FRIENDLY MESSENGER DEADLINE:
The hard and fast cut-off date for the January issue is Tuesday, December 19th.
If your article isn't in by that date, we'll be happy to include it in our February, 2018 issue. Thank you !

Greetings from Nick the Mouse!

Greetings everyone. The air is chilly and a few snowflakes have been seen. There are candles in the windows and lights on the trees. As the song goes, *"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."* But before Christmas comes and we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, we must celebrate the season of Advent. It's a time when we prepare our hearts and our homes to welcome the Christ Child into our lives. We celebrate the season of hope, peace, joy, and love. We sing carols and read the Christmas Story. We see the lights reflected in the eyes of our children, and we rejoice. Hark the herald angels sing, *"Glory to the newborn King."* May you each have a blessed Christmas, and may we pray together for real peace on earth.

I'll be hanging around the church Christmas tree. Hope to see you in church. Joy to the world! The Lord is come. God bless us everyone. For unto us a child is born. Come let us adore him. Merry Christmas.

Sharing His love,
Nick, the church mouse.

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM!

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm is our Christmas Eve Service, with candles, candle lighting, Silent Night, more special music, and the Service of Lessons and Carols.

Fellowship News and Notes

We have a busy month planned for December. Meetings begin Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlor with coffee and goodies. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier!

December 5 An Advent program led by Carolyn Jackson. Come and prepare yourself for the coming of the Christ Child.

December 12 Deadline for receiving hats and mittens. We'll be bringing them across the street to the Tatnuck Magnet School. Berg Florist will be with us again. Get into the holiday spirit by making a boxwood tree. Cost is \$12. Let your creativity shine! You provide the small decorations to adorn your tree. We will be meeting downstairs in Fellowship Hall for this particular program.

December 17 **A Sunday.** We'll be hosting Coffee Hour.

December 19 It's Cookie Day!!! Please bring some of your finest homemade cookies as we make boxes for our shut-ins and staff. We'd also like to have a cookie swap among our Fellowship members. If you'd bring an extra dozen or more and put them in bags of three cookies each. For each bag you bring, you take one home. We also have a simple Christmas craft to do.

December 26 **No meeting.** Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas Day.

January 2 **No meeting.** Happy 2018.

Bulletin Cover Donations

If you'd be interested in donating a Sunday bulletin cover for a special occasion, please stop by the office to pick one from the many we have available. The cost is increasing in 2018 to \$12!

Prayer Requests

Hampton Bagdasarian requests prayers for June Kemp; Sue Cardin requests prayers for Helga Siam and David Siam; Helen Wronski requests prayers for Josephine Morrow and Elaine Wronski; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her daughter, Melanie, and for Justin and Catherine; Sue Carrow requests prayers for her brother, Michael Curran; Sally Hetfield requests prayers for Karen, Erin and Donna; and prayers are requested for Bruce Kabasinsky, for the healing of his leg; Roland Sournier, husband of Maryann and son-in-law of Wes and Betty Dalbeck; Erika Vecsey; Murdock Snair; Mary Kay McGrail's Aunt Shirley and Uncle Roy; Sis Prefontaine; Ronald Taylor; Charlotte Perry's nephew, Peter; Sally Day; and Rita Swett.

December Birthdays

05 Kenneth Sawyer
05 Helen Wronski
12 Doreen Mitchell-Gainedy
18 John Dalbeck
18 Kimberly Day
20 Courtney Brady
26 Marie Trzcinski
27 Natalie LaPointe
30 Jim Mirick

Community Luncheon News!

Menu for December: Please remember to call the church office (508-752-4635) to make reservations.

December 7: Mongolian Beef over Rice with mixed vegetables, a dinner roll, and birthday cake

December 14: Swedish Meatballs over Egg Noodles with beets, a muffin, and peach cobbler

December 21: Chicken Surprise with cranberry sauce, a muffin, and Jubilee Roll

December 28: **No luncheon this week. Merry Christmas!**

Jazz Christmas Concert!

These two performances come to us from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Friday, December 1st at 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Come listen to this wonderful music for a great Holiday experience!

Concordia Closet

Thank you everyone for your continual, twice-a-year, support of this intercity outreach. We asked you to fill the van, but you stuffed an Explorer instead. The variety was spot on, but especially the work and interview clothes.

Great job, everyone! Remember, our next savings month is April, with delivery the first of May, 2018.

Sharing News

Heifer International: Holiday Open House and Living Gift Market:

Saturday, December 2

Sunday, December 3

Saturday, December 9

Sunday December 10

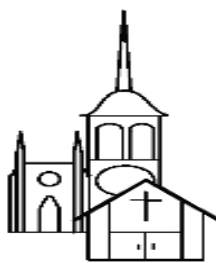
Cost: A canned good for the Worcester County Food Bank.

Visit the farm animals, check out donating a living gift this year for someone special, hayrides, food, cookie decorating, hot chocolate and cider, plus a visit to the Fair Trade Gift Shop, are all some of the great events on the farm both weekends!

Coupons Needed

Now that Sally day is on the mend from her surgery, she'll be looking for your coupons to send to the Elon School. Let's fill up the "poppy box" in the Narthex, and we'll be sure she gets them to send off for year's end. Thank you!

History Room



You might call this a house-keeping article, as the 300th Anniversary Team has completed its last official tasks. During the summer, a meeting was held with the Worcester Historical Museum to offer them the repository care of our

time capsule, joining the large assortment of items from all of our history over the past 300 years.

They were more than happy to have the capsule with its inventory as the latest entry in our church's history, enabling researchers to learn more about these people who started in a log cabin and now reside at the top of Tatnuck Hill.

As they say in the film industry... That's a wrap!

Stewardship News!

It's not too late to return your 2018 pledge form. You may place it in the offering plate or mail it to the office.

Tatnuck Magnet School



Save the Date! -Tatnuck Magnet School Christmas Concert

On **Wednesday, December 20th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, the Tatnuck Magnet School will be performing their annual Christmas Concert. All are welcome to attend and be a part of this wonderful celebration of the Holiday with joyful singing by the children and piano music!

Praise Banners



Three new praise banners will be dedicated the First Sunday in Advent, December 3rd.

Laundry Love



The variety of items you gave this past month made a lot of people happy. Seven large jugs of detergent, \$10 in cash, 1 box of Capri Sun, 15 youth activities, 2 books, and 15 health items for the zip bags. Thank you for your generosity. Collection day for December is Sunday, December 10th.

Many, many thanks!

Misson Matters

MSPCC Christmas Tags!

The Holiday Season is upon us, and once again we'd like to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves and brighten Christmas for children in need.

MSPCC works with all kinds of families: biological, kinship, foster, and adoptive, so that children grow up safe, healthy, and well-cared for. Oftentimes grandparents find themselves stepping in and caring for grandchildren whose parents, for one reason or another, cannot. There may be a young mother who finds herself alone, struggling to care for her baby, or maybe a father caring for his young children. There are children who have been rescued from parents struggling with addictions and placed in foster or adoptive homes.

For thousands of foster and kinship families, MSPCC is there to offer support, training, and resources to help them care for children, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in a new home, anxious to understand why, and in need of a loving adult they can trust.

The children range in age from newborn through 12 years. Let's help them have a brighter Christmas by providing them with a \$25 gift!

You'll find the Christmas tags with the age, gender, and gift request of the child, hanging on the tree in the Sanctuary. **Please return wrapped gifts by December 10th.**

Thank you for your support!

The Missions Committee.

December 2017 - FCC Worcester Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	2 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
3 First Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am PRC meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	4 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm AA Meeting	5 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	6 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	7 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir	8 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	9 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
10 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Trustees Mtg 6:30pm AA Meeting	11 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg 7:00pm AA Meeting	12 10:00am Fellowship 12:00pm Missions 7:00pm AA Mtg	13 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	14 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting	15 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	16 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
17 Third Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 11:30am Deacons meeting 6:30pm AA Meeting	18 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 10:00am Tatnuck Magnet concert rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting	19 *Deadline for Submissions to the Friendly Messenger 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm AA Mtg	20 7:30am BNI 1:00pm Tatnuck Magnet School Concert 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	21 Winter Solstice 12:30pm Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir	22 1:00pm Tatnuck Magnet School Concert snow date 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	23 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
24 Christmas Eve Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm AA Mtg	27 7:30am BNI 7:00pm Resurrection Ministries 7:00pm AA Meeting	28 No Community Lunch 6:30pm AA Meeting	29 3:15pm Girl Scouts 9:00pm Resurrection Ministries	30 10:00am New Hope SDA 12:00pm Church of God
31 New Year's Eve 10:00am Worship 10:30am Resurrection Ministries 6:30pm AA Meeting						