

PURPOSE
STATEMENT

"We are disciples of Jesus Christ committed to making a difference in the community and in the world through service and invitational outreach."

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

From the Pastor

December 2019

Volume 23, Issue 12

Inside this Issue	Page
DS's December Devotional; those Serving in the Military	2
Trinity UMC, ME—letter Cookie Exchange Nauset Neighbors Staff Contacts	3
2020 Lay Leadership	4
Church Calendar	5
Coffee Hour Fellowship "Ordinary Day" poem	6
Volunteer Schedule; Birthdays & Anniversaries "Sue Leatherwood"	7

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Copies of the newsletter
are also available in
Fellowship Hall.

Greetings, my beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is hard to think about anything else when it is December! It's all about Christmas. I see kids already waiting for their Christmas presents. My friend is excited about Christmas decorations that she is about to do. All of December is about Christmas and anticipation of Christmas, religious or secular.

A while ago, I came across a writing of John R. Brokhoff who was a Lutheran minister and a professor of Homiletics at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. And I would like to share it with you.

"The church set aside this four-weeks of quiet anticipation. It is a time of quiet anticipation. If Christ is going to come again into our hearts, there must be repentance for without repentance our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be 'no room in the inn' for Christ to be born again... We have the joy not of celebration, which is the joy of Christmas, but the joy of anticipation."

When a family is expecting a baby in the house, there are many preparations that need to be done, like buying baby clothes, diapers, cribs, and many other things, but one of the most important and common things to do is cleaning the whole house. And in order to do a cleaning more

effectively, you have to organize things in the house and set up a nursery first. So, while we prepare Christmas with joyful anticipation, exciting presents, and beautiful Christmas decorations, we also need to prepare a place for baby Jesus to be born again in our hearts.

And in order to do that, as a preparation, a good cleaning is requested. What are the things that you know you need to clean in your heart? What stops you from believing that you are a beloved child of God who is worthy of God's grace? What are the things that you love more than God? Do you have anything that is holding you back from committing yourself to God?

Repentance is not about judging or punishing yourself. Think of it as a cleaning of your heart. You are making room in your heart for Jesus. I hope that during this season of joyful anticipation all of us benefit from a good refreshing cleaning, and welcome baby Jesus, a savior and redeemer of all.

Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Peace,
Pastor Sue

District Superintendent's December 2019 Devotional Corrupted by Friendship

*"Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked."
Proverbs 25:26*

He was the point guard on his high school basketball team and star quarterback of the football team, and he knew his Bible better than almost any kid in school. He had memorized great portions of Scripture and seldom missed a Sunday in church. He was, without a doubt, one of the most well-liked kids in his class. But he didn't always live out what he knew. When he was in seventh grade, he had met two wild friends on his football team, and the friendship prospered through high school. As the threesome grew up, they won football games together, partied on weekends together, chased girls together, and got in trouble together. The boy who called the plays in the huddle wasn't strong enough to call the plays with his two friends. They called the plays for him. The plays they called asked him to run out of bounds – way out of bounds. A beautiful girl came along with a need to do whatever it took to get him to like her. Her reputation was loose, and he knew it. Thinking in the beginning that he'd get her closer to God, he found out that she led him closer to the pit. The mistakes he made with her he'll regret for a long time to come.

Jesus, knowing our glaring weaknesses, rightly said, "Be not unequally yoked to an unbeliever" (see 2 Corinthians 6:14). He knew that a fast oxen and a slow oxen yoked side by side could not pull a plow. He also knew that a follower of Christ can't pull his weight yoked to one who follows the devil. More Christian kids than you could write on all the pages of this booklet have gotten drunk, high, pregnant, and in serious trouble because they didn't listen to God's words of caution: "Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked."

Where is the one place you should take a friend who doesn't follow Christ? Why is it so much harder to lead a wicked man to Christ than to lead a good man to the devil? What is so bad about a "trampled spring" and a "polluted well"? How are they like a "righteous man who gives way to the wicked"?

Consider your friends. Are there any you need to "unyoke" yourself from? Ask God to help you do what is best.

Blessings Always, (Numbers 6:24-26)
Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III.

Serving In The Military

Please keep in your prayers all those serving in the military, especially the following members associated with our church.

- Capt. Robert Butt, U.S. Marines, Virginia & Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Butt, U.S. Navy, Virginia, grandsons of Anna Buckley.
- Staff Sgt. Daniel E. Szarek, U.S. Army, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, & SPC Timothy J. Szarek, U.S. Army Reserves (recovering from head trauma), twin grandsons of Shirley James Freethy.
- Lt. Forrest A. Bogue, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA, grandson of Olive Bogue.
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, at Camp Casey, South Korea, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler.

Trinity UMC, Farmington, ME

Trinity United Methodist Church wishes to thank you for your gracious gift of money given for the purpose of feeding and assisting our fellow firefighters and displaced families in Farmington. The September 16th disaster has forever changed our lives in varying ways. The money has made our mission much easier to assist our families in need, but the sense of community has deepened significantly. The word 'family' now has a much more personal meaning for us, no longer needing to be just blood relation to be considered brothers and sisters. Family now encompasses all people and friends of differing generations that feel connected because of a commonality of loss... [it] has unified and strengthened our faith and love for all of God's unique family. The money accumulated...exceeds \$3,700...more than is needed for food...Trinity has set up a disaster relief account [which] will be put into gift cards after the meals are no longer needed.

We thank God for every single one of you and your compassionate acts of giving. May your lives be enriched through your faith as ours has been...

Debbie Farley, Admin. Assist.

Nauset Neighbors

Want to make a real and important difference in a neighbor's life? Join **Nauset Neighbors'** team of volunteers and do just that! They help senior neighbors to remain living at home and be active in their communities by providing rides to appointments, friendly visits, tech help, and simple handyman tasks. There is no fixed schedule - just go online to sign up when you have time.

Among their 400+ members are Chatham residents. Unfortunately, **Nauset Neighbors** doesn't have enough volunteers to accommodate all the seniors who ask to become members. There is a particular need for more volunteers in Chatham, which is why they are reaching out to us.

nausetneighbors.org

COMMUNION PREPARER

FOR DECEMBER 2019

December 1—Judy Catandella



Cookie Exchange

Our Cookie Exchange will be held on **December 15** following worship. Bring plenty of your favorite cookie (and the recipe if you'd like) to share with others and take home others' cookies. It's always a wonderful time of fellowship.

STAFF CONTACTS

Pastor Sooyoun Sue Kim

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Pastor's office hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 12pm

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Pastoral Counselors

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LAY LEADERSHIP FOR 2020**

CHURCH COUNCIL, MISSIONS & HOSPITALITY

Chair - Elaine Trexler
Committee on Lay Leadership - Pastor
Co-Lay Leaders - Jay Thompson & Karen Goggins
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee - Mike Firmin
Chair, Trustees and Finance - Alan Kuzirian
Treasurer - Deb Holt
Controller - David Murray
Financial Secretary - Bonnie Freitas
Publicity - Diane Kennedy
At-Large Member - Norma Avellar

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS & LAY LEADERSHIP

Class of 2020

Ruth Norman
Katie Buckley
Mike Firmin, Chair
Jay Thompson, Co-Lay Leader

Class of 2021

Robin Rank
Lee Sneden
Karen Goggins, Co-Lay Leader

Class of 2022

David Malloves
Rebecca Arnold
Fran Wynn
Bonnie Freitas

FINANCE

Deb Holt, **Treasurer**
Bonnie Freitas, **Financial Secretary**
Elaine Trexler, **Church Council Chair**
Jay Thompson and Karen Goggins, **Co-Lay Leaders**
Mike Firmin, **Chair SPRC**
David Murray, **Church Controller**
Joyce Lance, **Secretary**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2020

Myron Kellberg
David Malloves
Alan Brier
Tom Sharkey

Class of 2021

Roy Papenfuhs
David Thomson
Bruce Wynn

Class of 2022

Lynne Long
Toni Wordell
Alan Kuzirian, Chair

MINISTRIES COORDINATORS

Connected Congregation & Updates - Diane Kennedy
Coffee Hour - Robin Rank
Liturgists - Deb Cob, Jay Thompson
Ushers - Alan Brier, Ken Johnson
Greeters - Ken Johnson
Communion Preparers - Ruth Norman
Congregate Housing Dinners - Joyce Lance
All Church Supplies - Suzannah Nickerson
Thrift Shop - Ruth Norman, Representative
Children's Ministry - Robin Rank, Jane Powers
Lobster Roll Suppers - Everyone
Strawberry Festival - Toni Wordell, Cathy Bogue
Craft Fairs - Cathy Bogue

New volunteers are always welcome and are needed. If you see an area in which you are interested, let someone on the committee or the ministry know, or tell Pastor Sue or call Joyce Lance in the office.

Hands of Hope Food Pantry Outreach Center, is asking for all holiday foods, including turkeys, hams and "fixin's". Pantry hours are Monday and Friday 10-3, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1-3. For its **Holiday Gift Program**, you may donate unwrapped, new toys or teen gifts, which can be brought to the Chapel at 187 Upper County Road, Dennis Port, by Monday, December 16, between 9-12.

A Baby Center, 80 Willow Street, Hyannis, especially needs donations for older toddlers by December 5. Unwrapped gifts can be dropped at the Baby Center on Wednesday, December 4, by 12pm. They send a "thank you" and Christmas greetings.

DECEMBER 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday in Advent 10 am Worship, Communion, and Sunday School—	2 8—11am : Congregational Church's Knitting Ministry—all knitters are welcome	3 9am Osteo Exercise 10:30-12:00 Book Study Group	4 8am MLS 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9am Osteo Exercise 9am Thrift Shop Volunteers Meeting	6 10:30 Thrift Shop Open	7 10:30 Thrift Shop Open
8 10 am Worship and Sunday School— Kingsbury Strings will Play for us 11:30—2:00: Strings rehearsing in Sanctuary	9 8—11am : Congregational Church's Knitting Ministry—all knitters are welcome	10 9am Osteo Exercise 10:30-12:00 Book Study Group	11 8am MLS 5pm—Board of Trustees 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9am Osteo Exercise 10 Thrift Shop Open	13 10 Thrift Shop Open	14 10 Thrift Shop Open
15 10 am Worship, Children's Sermon and Sunday School— 7pm—Christmas Concert in Sanctuary by Seaglass Theatre Co.	16 8—11am : Congregational Church's Knitting Ministry—all knitters are welcome	17 9am Osteo Exercise 10:30-12:00 Book Study Group 3pm Church Council	18 8am MLS 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 9am Osteo Exercise 10am Thrift Shop Open 1pm Finance 6:30 Chatham Chorale rehearsal	20 10 Thrift Shop Open	21 9:30-12—Chatham Chorale Rehearsal 10 Thrift Shop Open 3pm—Chatham Chorale Concert in Sanctuary
22 10 am Worship and Sunday School 2 and 5pm: Chatham Chorale Concerts in Sanctuary	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8—11am : Congregational Church's Knitting Ministry—all knitters are welcome	24 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship and Sunday School	30 8—11am : Congregational Church's Knitting Ministry—all knitters are welcome	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE ACTIVITIES				

COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP

To those generous persons who have volunteered to host the after-worship coffee hour, thank you! A word for you: before you shop for non-food items, check the coffee hour closet in the kitchen, please. There is a plethora of supplies there: paper goods of all sizes, colors, holidays, and uses. Note too that they are stacked neatly and in order according to size and type. It would be helpful to maintain the closet in that order. Indeed the closet door could boast a sign stating Abondanza. *Hospitality Committee.*



If you find yourself listed and would like to be switched or removed, please contact Norma Avellar at 508.432.1735.

<u>FIRST WEEK</u>	<u>SECOND WEEK</u>	<u>THIRD WEEK</u>	<u>FOURTH WEEK</u>	<u>FIFTH WEEK</u>
DECEMBER 2019				
1st: Joan Kendall & Marilyn Johnson	8th: Dave & Brenda Thomson	15th: Cookie Exchange	22nd: Phyllis Power and Barbara Nickerson	29th: Linda & Tom Leinbach

Ordinary Day by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

*An ordinary day, nothing special,
no big events planned, nothing on the calendar,
not going anywhere, doing anything.*

*Resist the temptation to think of it as dull.
Renounce the desire to be entertained.
This is a day you are needed:*

*to be attentive, to listen deeply,
to give God some loving company,
to extend loving mercy to the world.*

*Enter the monastery of your life.
Let the whole day be prayer and praise,
a meditation on the presence of God.*

*Let every ordinary thing you do,
the meeting, lunch, and the dishes,
be an act of devotion, of becoming light.*

*Let this day be holy, a gift from God,
and be deeply present to every bit.
Thank God that this grace is the usual thing.*



Don't forget to bring in non-perishable food items for the Chatham Food Pantry.

In December, we will concentrate on canned fruit and cans of beef stew. There is a collection basket to the left of the stairs leading to the Sanctuary where you may leave your donations. No large size containers, please. **THANK YOU!**

December Volunteer Schedule

(If you have a conflict with your assignment, please contact the Coordinator listed below.)

	LITURGISTS COORDINATOR Deb Cobb 508-430-0048 carl.deb@verizon.net	HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR Norma Avellar 508-432-1735	USHERS COORDINATORS Ken Johnson 508-432-3247 Allan Brier 508-945-3729	COMMUNION PREPARERS Lynne Long nelyn@comcast.net
December 1 10 am Worship and Communion	Jay Thompson, Co-celebrant	Marilyn Johnson Joan Kendall	Jay Thompson Toni Wordell Janet Eldredge	Deb Cobb
December 8 10 am Worship	Karen Goggins	Dave & Brenda Thomson	Barbara & John Natarelli Ruth Norman	
December 15 10 am Worship, Children's Sermon	Diane Kennedy	Cookie Exchange	Judy Catandella Myron Kellberg Diane Kennedy	
December 22 10 am Worship	Katie Buckley	Phyllis Power Barbara Nickerson	Dave Mallowes Tom Sharkey Toni Wordell	
December 29	Tom Sharkey	Linda & Tom Leinbach	Janet Eldredge Ken & Marylyn Johnson	

BIRTHDAYS

12-20 Dona Connor
12-18 Dick Woolbert



ANNIVERSARIES

12-11 Pastor Sue & Hank

I want to give thanks to our outgoing District Administrative Assistance, Susan Leatherwood, and welcome our new District Administrative Assistant, Michelle Chan. I am grateful for the many years Sue has served this district and conference. I am equally grateful for the presence of Michelle as she transitions into this role. As you are led, reach out to Michelle to welcome her to our district.

It is my prayer that you will take some time to reflect on the many ways God has blessed you during this season...be guilty of spreading the love of God to a world that is in need of a smile, a hug or a random act of kindness. May our gracious God continue to bless you, your families, and the ministry to which God has called you.

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III.

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