



First  
Congregational  
Church UCC  
of Harwich

697 Main Street  
Harwich MA 02645

[www.firstchurchofharwich.org](http://www.firstchurchofharwich.org)  
[firstchurchharwich@comcast.net](mailto:firstchurchharwich@comcast.net)

*"As a beacon on the top of the mountain, and an ensign on a hill."  
~Isaiah 30:17*

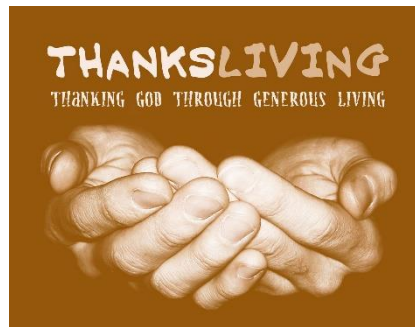
## November 2021 Beacon

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

SUNDAY, 11/7/2021 @ 2 A.M.

**\*PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS.\***

### A POSTURE OF THANKS-LIVING



Dear Good & Loving People,

It has always struck me as odd that we set aside one day out of 365 for Thanksgiving. I get that it doesn't really mean we're not thankful the other 364, yet only November 25<sup>th</sup> is set on our calendar as an 'all day event' for Thanksgiving. It's like somehow even our calendars know that we need a reminder because without them we might forget.

One of the reasons I think we need reminding is because **being thankful is an action**. In fact, usually thankfulness is an instantaneous response to something we've experienced. Someone hands us our coffee in the morning, we say "thank you"; someone holds the door open for us or helps us, we say "thank you". It doesn't require a prompt, because for most of us, it's almost hardwired into our be-

havior. **Action = thankfulness**. One of the challenges with this approach is its momentary nature. We're thankful in that moment, for a few split seconds, and then we're back to our regularly scheduled program. The event has passed and it's onward with the rest of our day.

**Thanks-living** is something different. Rather than being hardwired and instantaneous, thanks-living takes time and requires something from us. For starters, it requires that we prioritize and nurture our relationship with God, one another and indeed all of God's creation. This way of living expresses the action of "thank you" not only from our mouths, but also from our hearts.

**Medical studies suggest that being thankful can reduce depression, improve self-esteem, increase energy, decrease blood pressure, reduce negative**

**stress, foster deeper friendships, and reduce negative emotions.** In other words, a life of thanks-living can change our own lives as well as that of others!

I think the challenge for us, myself included, is to continue to move towards a life of thanks-living. That might mean moving deeper into a posture of thankfulness and then finding ways of expressing it. Like keeping a gratitude journal to count our blessings at the end of each day. It could be sending a card to someone, a text, email, message, or phone call. Checking on our friends and neighbors as we did during the recent nor'easter- offering a warm place & meals. Taking us up on the countless

ways we have for you to volunteer at First Church. Taking a "time out" retreat. Developing an intentional prayer rhythm, pausing throughout the day to pray- like morning, noon, and night. The ways of continuing to form your life into a posture of thanks-living are filled with endless possibilities- so continue to get creative!

**Happy Thanks-living!** "Thank You" for inviting me to be your pastor!! My heart is very full from daily witnessing your ways of living out the thankful life before God.

~Pastor Sue

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER SUGGESTION

You might be surprised at how nervous people can be at leading the Thanksgiving prayer. It's true! Over the last decade, many people have come to me privately to ask for tips. Here's a suggestion:

Dear God, thank You for the times we have shared together. We are grateful for the many blessings You have given to our family/friends. Thank You for our home, our food, our sharing good times and difficult times. Thank You for the love You have shown us all. I ask You to continue to bless our family/friends in the year to come. We will do our best to remember to remain thankful in our daily lives. As we share this meal, we remember that it is You that has provided it. Please bless the hands that prepared it. Amen!

## SAY "THANK YOU"

It's what your parents always remind you to say. Now try saying it in a language other than English:

<u>Language</u>	<u>Thank You</u>
Australian English	Ta
Chinese, Mandarin	Xie xie
Danish	Tak
Finnish	Kiitos
French	Merci
German	Danke
Greek	Efharisto
Hebrew	Toda
Italian	Grazie
Norwegian	Takk
Polish	Dziekuje
Portuguese	Obrigada
Russian	Spasibo
Spanish	Gracias

## HONOR VETERANS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>



Veterans Day is Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> so to honor the veterans among us and those who in your life who are or were veterans, **please bring a picture and/or other memento to worship on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**. Place it on the table in front of the altar.

During the worship service, Pastor Sue will lift up your picture and/or memento and allow you time to talk about your veteran. Then we will pray over our veterans and honor them for their selfless service to our country.

### SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:30 am

“The Sabbath-day is the savings-bank of humanity.” — Arthur Frederick Saunders

**Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>: Communion Sunday and Veterans Day Recognition.** “*What is True About You*” (1 John 2:1-14 NLT) looks at the deeper meaning for our lives found in this poem.

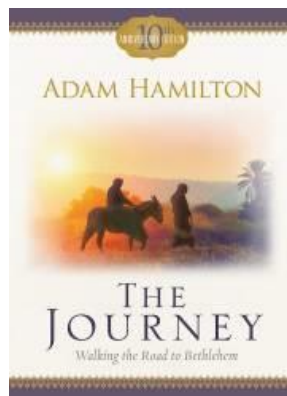
**Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>: “One’s Turn”** (Luke 17:11-19) - we are “triune” creations of a triune God- physical, emotional and spiritual beings in search of God’s salvation, healing and wholeness. There is a gap of time

in which we make decisions, in which we turn toward God’s healing and wholeness.

**Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>: Thanksgiving Sunday “It Was Only a Dish”** (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) is Pastor Sue’s lighter take on what’s important around our Thanksgiving tables.

**Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- “Hope” and the beginning of “The Inn: Housing the Holy” series.**

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY & VIDEO STARTS NOV. 17<sup>TH</sup>



In "The Journey-Walking the Road to Bethlehem", Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton approaches this world-changing event using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. This most amazing

moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you journey along. We'll use both the book "The Journey-Walking the Road to Bethlehem" and accompanying video for each session:

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Mary of Nazareth  
December 1<sup>st</sup>: Joseph of Bethlehem

December 8th: From Nazareth to Bethlehem  
December 15th: The Manger

**In the Parish House on Wednesdays from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in-person (bring your lunch or snack) & Zoom; Zoom only from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Sign-up sheets in the Parish House, contact Pastor Sue, or email Kimberly in the church office @ [firstchurchharwich@comcast.net](mailto:firstchurchharwich@comcast.net). Purchase "The

Journey-Walking the Road to Bethlehem" book online or let Pastor Sue know and she will order for you & deliver.

Please consider being a part of Christian fellowship group engaged in studying the Bible, thoughtful faith exploration and personal devotion during this most hopeful of seasons.



**The Church Office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, 11/25 and the day after on 11/26.**

### **“THE INN: HOUSING THE HOLY” ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERIES**

Watch the series trailer at this link: [The Inn: Housing the Holy](#)



The pandemic and other crises that we have experienced for nearly two years now have all sent us a billboard-sized message: **we have problems to address!** And so did the Holy Family that night! An oppressive regime had demanded everyone upend their lives and hightail it to their home towns to register for the census—for tax purposes. Mary was on the verge of giving birth and Airbnb wasn't an option. Whether they got to town late or for some other reason, they had a housing problem that night.

The Innkeeper is a figure of our imaginations. Not referenced in the Gospels, we assume that since Luke said there was an “inn,” then there must have been an “innkeeper.” Often our stories cast him in

a negative light, someone who banished a pregnant woman to where the animals were kept. But what if, since we are engaging our imaginations anyway, what if he was truly an entrepreneur? Someone who saw a problem and thought, literally, “outside the box” to solve the problem of where Mary could have her child? Instead of thinking “there’s nowhere,” he said to himself first, “there has to be somewhere.”

No one person or church can solve everything, but each of us can do something. Just like the innkeeper. Housing the holy work of Divine Love can happen in many ways. And so you are invited to spend this Advent and Christmas seeing your life and First Church's life in a different light... the light of the

Star of Bethlehem that shone that night on an unlikely house for the holy—a stable. The Light of Christ is shining on you, inviting you to become a beacon of hope to others. What one thing could you do (or add to what you already do) that could alle-

viate someone's suffering? And, how could this series inspire you to think bigger and beyond this holiday season with purposeful solutions for the community housed in and around our church? We are called to "make room" in our inns for the newborn Christ child.

## 24Hour Prayer Line

### IN NEED OF PRAYER?

The First Church "Prayer Line" is here for you! Call the church at 508-432-1053 and enter my extension, 602. I've recorded a prayer that you can listen to at any time of the day or night. And, you can leave a message for me if you would like me to pray for you, someone else, or a certain situation. Please let me know whether it is okay to pray for them on Sunday morning during worship.

The prayer will be updated at least weekly if not twice a week, so it is refreshed and refreshing!  
~ Pastor Sue

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God." -Philippians 4:6-7

### MUSICAL NOTES

The choir is rehearsing for our **Advent Christmas Concert on December 4 at 3:00 p.m. (that's a Saturday)**. We will have three members of the Harwich Women's Chorus who will join us (Melanie Pullo, Nancy Paslaski, and Adele Lally; two sopranos and one alto). At the concert we will have Peggy Gerber on flute and Erica Hso Haidas on violin. Our First Church choir is Adele Babin, Emily Kosoff, Nancy Segall, Dawn Brooks, Lynn Carver, Tom Jahnke, Dick Siegel, Jeep Mashoke, Bruce Stroever and Karen Stroever. It will be great!

playing such beautiful music every week for several months. And Lynn arranged the music as well!

I am working on an idea to celebrate the church's 275 Anniversary next year, in 2022. I would like to have special music for a Sunday service that I compose for the occasion. I am thinking that June would be a good time for that, but a date hasn't been set yet. I will work with our church leaders to find the best time and venue for my idea.

Bell choir is rehearsing now, directed by Lynn Carver. I am looking forward to hearing them again. I am grateful to Lynn and to Tom Jahnke for

I had two concerts recently, and I appreciated everyone's support and attendance so much. Thank you.

~ Marcia Hempel

### THE DEACONS' DOOR

. . . is always open

"I'm here if you need me." ~ Kate Braestrup

This quote seems to sum up the purpose of The Deacon's Door. It is taken from a book written by a woman who suffered tragedy and, with faith, became a minister to a police force. She shares her experiences in this book.

Your Deacons are here if you need them - we are trying to learn how to listen just as you are. May we never forget that He is also here if we need Him, "even unto the end of the age".

Blessings,  
*Your Diaconate*

Someone else had the same message about 2000 years ago. How well do you think we've listened?

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to help out on Sunday mornings to bring members or friends, who have no transportation or are no longer able to drive, to get to church. These are parishioners who want and need to come to the worship service, to see and talk with friends.

If any member or friend of First Church is able and willing to help out on an occasional Sunday, please call the church office and leave your name and phone number with Kim, Office Administrator, at 508-432-1053 or speak with a Deacon.

~ DeeDee Dyer & Diaconate

## FELLOWSHIP

### Thanksgiving Baskets

The Fellowship Committee will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for those in our congregation who have trouble getting out.

We will be putting the baskets together on Monday morning, November 22nd at 9:30.

We are filling the baskets with small breads, cookies and fruit. If you would like to bake a small bread or some cookies that would be much appreciated. You can drop them off on Sunday, November 21st before church or Monday morning the

22nd at 9:30.

If you can't bake and would like to donate for the purchase of fruit you can give your donation to Nancy Segall or any member of the Fellowship Team, or send it to First Congregational Church Harwich and designate Thanksgiving Baskets.

Blessings,  
*Nancy Segall*

## MISSIONS

### Donations for Hands of Hope Outreach Center

Contributions for the Hands of Hope Outreach Center will be accepted Sunday mornings. Containers will be available in the narthex as you enter the church.

Please consider donating any of the following items as they put together their Thanksgiving Baskets: stuffing mix; boxed mashed or scalloped potatoes; cranberry sauce; turkey or chicken gravy; quick bread mix or pie crust; canned pumpkin, apple or cherry; condiments - olives, crackers, relish; cookies or brownies; canned yams. Coincidentally, almost all of these items are on sale at Stop n' Shop this week. Let see if we can fill these containers.

The Mission Board will provide delivery of the items to Hands of Hope.

### Dollars for the Food Pantry

On the second Sunday of the month we will be collecting money for the Hands of Hope Food Pantry of Cape Cod Council of Churches. Each of us is invited to contribute one dollar (or more). Please place donations in the Hands of Hope basket that is provided and located in the narthex.

~ Lorraine Frederickson, *pro tem*

## OCTOBER CABINET REPORT

### Board Reports

**Christian Education:** An effort is being made to get the program up and running.

**Diaconate:** Discussion topics included:

- Ideas for the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

- Ideas for members who need transportation to church.
- Increasing our presence on social media
- October worship service plans
- Possible new groups – Bible Study, Spirituality Practices, Book, Prayer, Men’s

**Trustees:**

- Kim Perry’s hours will be changed, and her title will be “Office Administrator.”
- The finance budget was approved
- “The Inn Door” will be purchased and placed on the front lawn.
- A church banner will be placed on the fence by the bike trail.
- A UCC open and affirming logo will be purchased and placed on the church sign.
- Signs in front of BB and the TS will be upgraded.

**Fellowship:**

- The dishwasher will be fixed, and the closet will be sorted out.
- On Nov. 22, Thanksgiving baskets will be packed. The congregation will be asked to donate food or money.

**Mission:** The Neighbors in Need materials for October have been ordered.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jeep made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. It was seconded and approved by Cabinet members.

**Auxiliary Teams:**

- Nominating will meet on Sunday, Oct 17
  - Stevens Fund Team met and suggested \$750 towards the purchase of Marcia’s new laptop, and \$400 for 20 voice lessons for Jade. The Cabinet approved both.
- Another idea is to have the church take part in the Cranberry Festival Parade.
- Personnel will meet re. Kim’s job description and future contract change.

**Other Business:**

- Church fliers will be placed in the box near the front walk.
- Church 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The committee will consist of Stevens Team, Historical Records, and Tom Jahnke.
- Discussion of air quality in the sanctuary as the weather cools.
- Discussion of resuming fellowship hour.

## Libby Arnold Stevens’ CORNER THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop Board recently decided to rearrange things in the shop. With the help of Paul Frederickson and John Bitzer, we moved the cashier’s desk back near the entrance door, and shifted some of the displays. Come in and take a look!

Due to an abundance of clothing donations, we recently began a 50% off sale on all men’s and women’s pants, until further notice.

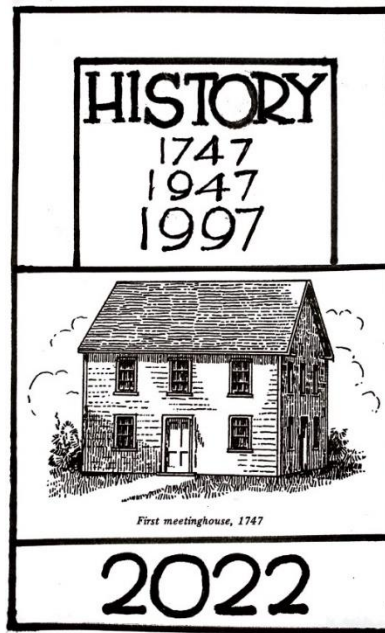
In a few weeks, we will have our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Friday Sale. All items in the Shop will be 50% off on

the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Don’t miss it!

Thanks to our donors, shoppers, and volunteers, we were able to transfer \$6,000 to First Church in October. That amounts to \$21,900 since July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We appreciate your support.

Thrift Shop Board Members,  
Sue Perry, Lynn Bitzer, Joyce Noyes, Adelle Babin,  
Hilda Cohen, Lynn Carver



## of First Congregational Church of Harwich.

It is probably appropriate that this month's *Beacon* begins to speak to First Church History, given that the *Church of Christ* in the second precinct of Harwich (the original name of our church) had its founding date on November 12, 1747. If you do the math we will be celebrating the two hundred seventy-five (275th) anniversary of our church next year.

As a prelude to this historic event, the *Beacon*, and continuing all next year January – December 2022, will contain a short article revealing interesting historical facts about the HISTORY of First Congregational Church of Harwich (A Meeting House).

Topics will come from recorded history previously written by early authors, photographs, artifacts stored in church building display cases (predominately the Parish House Artifact Cabinets) and from the Historical Record Room located on the second floor of Broad Brooks. And yes, from congregational members who may have artifacts in their possession. So, come journey with me as we look into First Church History. The year is 1748, the year our first Meeting House was finished. It was built on a site just west of our present Parish House. It was a simple structure with no plaster lathe to keep out the cold which we are now beginning to feel. Comfort nor aesthetics are not given consideration. Facing south it had one door on the south side, the long side (see drawing

above) and separate stairways for men and women. No spire (with bell tower, clock and weathervane) like our church, which is a photographer's stimulus for taking the picture. Inside, 12 pews. A pulpit along the north wall, with the minister's wife's pew to the east. The pews were bought by men in order of their standing in town. Yes, pew benches were originally paid for resulting in determined seating location when you attended a town meeting or church service.

In doing a little Google research, the act of determining seating was common in the early church. Pew costs varied. Pews closer to the Pulpit brought a higher amount. As time progressed, the "bought pew" changed to a "rental pew". *"Have you sent in your quarterly pew payment for the pew seat you select to sit in when you attend Sunday Church Service?"*

Proof of First Church Pew Rentals exist in three Pew Rental Books (which were handed down by appointed Meeting House Treasurers). The name Seating Plan, dated 1860, also turned up in Broad Brooks and was given to me by the current Treasurer, Tom Jahnke. In the book "Pew Rentals - 1855-1864" the following listing was written with names and appraisal costs noted.

*"Appraisal of Pews in the Congregational Meeting House, July 15, 1855 and personal to whom sold May 17th and subsequently the appraisal was*



*made to cover the expenses for the year ending December 31, 1855 and purchasers are to pay the yearly appraisal, altho they are to occupy only until 1st of January, unless a specific bargain is made to the contrary”.*

I selected the recorded register for the year 1860 to share because the names listed are the same names listed in an *1860 Seating Congregational Church Harwich Seating Plan*. From the 103 named members, one of names that caught my attention was *Sam Moody, Pew 41*. Current First

*Appraisal of Pews and Purchasers from January 1, 1860 to January 1, 1861 in the Congregational Meeting House in Harwich.*

<u>No.</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Appraisal</u>	<u>Amt. to Pay</u>	<u>1 Pay</u>	<u>2 Pay</u>	<u>3 pay</u>	<u>4 Pay</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>
1	Jonathan Small	\$19.00	\$9.50	\$2.38	\$7.12			\$9.50
12	Obed Brooks	\$30.00	\$30.00					\$30.00
14	Harriet M. Brooks	\$30.00	\$5.00					\$5.00
	J. Brooks		\$5.00	\$2.50	\$2.50			\$5.00
	Sarah Brooks		\$5.00	\$5.00				\$5.00
	Sidney Brooks		\$15.00	\$5.00	\$10.00			\$15.00
26	Sidney Brooks	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00				\$10.00
41	Sam Moody	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$5.00				\$5.00
45	John Eldredge	\$3.00	\$1.00					
53	Caleb Small	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$8.00	\$8.00			\$16.00

*Appraisal total for the year \$143.00. Total Amount for the year collected \$100.50*

The concept for church seating started with simple benches, which became pews or slip-pews, and of course family box pews. Box pews are still found today in churches. Today our seating is “Open” and you will find First Church members sitting in their selective pews on Sunday. Collecting funds for today’s FCCH Budget continues, but with contribution income from many sources, but not from Pew Appraisals.

Church member, Stanson (Stan) Moody and Sam Moody are relatives. At the February 2, 2020 church service First Church accepted, re-dedicated and used a Communion Service given in Memory of another Moody relative, Dr. Samuel Irving Moody. Stan and his wife proudly attended the service.

To share the rental process/information I randomly selected pews with the accompanying member’s name. Notice a family occupied an entire pew, No. 14.

The Pew Rental Books and the Seating Plan diagram – *Congregational Church, Harwich Center 1860* will be on view in the Parish House Artifact Cabinet beginning Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Sincerely,  
Richard (Dick) Siegel - Historian

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Have you thought about your legacy? When you include First Church in your will or estate plan, you leave a lasting legacy. It reflects your values and ensures the continued mission of First Church in the future.

To establish your legacy, please contact your attorney and Tom Jahnke, the Treasurer of First Church,

to discuss this matter. Before the end of a fiscal year, it is possible to establish this lasting gift, earn a full tax deduction on the bequest amount, as well as retain some income from the funds during your lifetime.

~ Bob Buchanan, Trustee



## BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Terry Newberry
7 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Smith
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Buchanan
10 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Palmer
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Dickson
11 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Hayes
13 <sup>th</sup>	Samantha Mashoke
20 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Bradley
24 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Kosoff
25 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Dalzell
27 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Newberry

## PRAYER LIST

*We encourage parishioners to call or email our Pastor or Administrative Assistant in our office by midweek with any new prayers so these can be printed and lifted up at Sunday worship.*

**Solace & Peace:** We bring before our Creator- loved ones, friends, neighbors- known and unknown to us- who have passed away. We also pray for God to comfort any who are in need and/or facing difficult trials. We pray and ask God to draw very close, and to raise up the right people to be ministers and to be a genuine comfort and support during times of trial and/or grief.

**Healing & Comfort:** Betty Lou's daughter & son-in-law; Julie's friend, Richard; Barbara L; Char S; Peter G; Adelle B's friends Joan B and Ann W; Haley; Ron J; Ann M; DeeDee's relatives; Joe B's daughter, daughter-in-law and nephew; Jack; Julie's teacher

friend's mom, Elsie; Benny P and Jo M; Edie's granddaughter Heidi; Mark C; Miles.

**Joys & Celebrations:** For all the saints who from their labors rest.

**Community & World:** Poverty; near homeless and homeless; living through Covid-19 and its variants; the hungry; ill; unemployed; school employees and students; those suffering with addictions; anxiety and depression; children & adults living with disabilities; all medical staff; first responders and caregivers; military personnel, victims of racism; immigrants and children; a sustainable earth; and peace and justice in our homes, our communities, this great nation and the world we share.

## FIRST CHURCH COVENANT

*Bound together as a Christian Church, and depending upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us, we covenant together to walk in all our ways, according to the rule of the Gospel, in mutual love and respect to one another, to strive to carry out the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.*

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