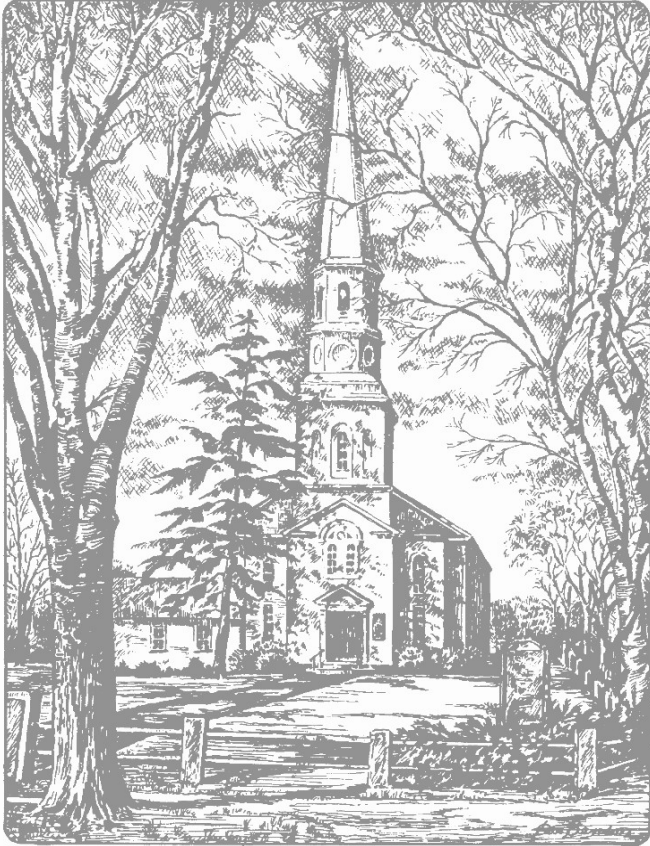


**The First Congregational Church of Harwich**  
United Church of Christ



*A beacon at the crossroads since 1747*  
*Open & Affirming since 2001*

697 Main Street  
Harwich, Massachusetts 02645  
(508) 432-1053

January 29, 2023



## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SERIES GENTLENESS | KINDNESS

*We welcome you to our worship service before God! Please wear a face covering during the service if you are not fully vaccinated. If you are a regular, we ask you to please wear a nametag. Hearing devices, noise cancelling headphones, and Kids Worship Bags are available- please ask a Deacon. Whether you are a first-time visitor or long-time member or somewhere in-between, we pray you are blessed as we worship God this morning!!*

“+” = please stand as you are able.

**First Church welcomes Jade Burrowes-Rampasard as our Lector today!**

**PRELUDE** *Taste and See*, by James E Moore  
*A Gaelic Blessing*, by John Rutter  
Marcia Hempel, piano

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The kingdom of God is coming because:

**All: Somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind,**

One: somewhere someone shares with another in need,

**All: somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate,**

One: somewhere someone is patient and waits in love,

**One: somewhere someone returns gentleness for anger,**

One: somewhere someone is calm in a storm,

**All: somewhere someone is loving everybody. Is that someone you?**

**+HYMN** NCH #207 *Just as I Am* (vs. 1-3 only)

## **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF KINDNESS**

**One:** I invite you to pass the good news of God's kindness to your neighbors. For each time we connect with one another, kindness grows.

**All: God's kindness is for you!**

## **ANTHEM**

*Hope's Prayer*

words by Hope Cavendish

music by Marcia Hempel

**First Church Choir**

## **KIDS MESSAGE**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- **Colossians 3:12-14**
- **Galatians 5:22-23**

**...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.**

### **SERMON "Fruit of the Spirit ~ Gentleness & Kindness"**

*Sung Response*

**Spirit of the Living God,**

**Fall afresh on me,**

**Spirit of the Living God,**

**Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us  
our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is  
the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

### *Sung Response*

**God is holding your life, God is holding your life,  
God is holding your life, we believe.  
God is holding your life, God is holding your life,  
God is holding your life, we believe.**

## **OFFERING**

*Everyone is invited to place their Offerings to God in plates that will be collected from the pews during the service, or to send the Offerings by mail to the church office.*

### **Invitation**

**Offering & Blessing of the First Congregational  
Church History Book (1747-2022)**

**Anthem**

***Be Thou My Vision***

Folk Hymn

**Bob Whitehead, trumpet**

**+Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise him all creatures here below**

**Praise him above ye heavenly hosts**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.***

**+Prayer of Dedication**

**All: God of every blessing...transform the gifts we return to You, that they may be gifts of abundant life and over-flowing love for a world thirsting for Your brand of gentleness and kindness. Amen.**

**+HYMN NCH# 286 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness***

**BENEDICTION** (the Beatitudes according to Matthew & Luke)

One: A blessing on you who are poor and poor in spirit,

**All: Yours is the Kingdom of God.**

One: A blessing on you who weep now,

**All: You shall be comforted.**

One: A blessing on you who are hungry and hunger for justice,

**All: You shall be filled.**

One: A blessing on you who make peace,

**All: You shall be called the children of God.**

One: A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of gentleness and kindness,

**All: Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE *Recessional on Deo Gratias*, English tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Please visit our website at [FirstChurchofHarwich.org](http://FirstChurchofHarwich.org) for more information and offerings. For semi-monthly updates, sign up for the **Beacon newsletters** at [FirstChurchHarwich@comcast.net](mailto:FirstChurchHarwich@comcast.net). Follow and share us on Facebook @ First Congregational Church of Harwich and subscribe to First Church Harwich's YouTube channel.

### THIS WEEK

Sun: 1/29 – 11:30 am – Coffee Hour – Parish House  
Wed: 2/1 – 10:00 am – Fellowship Meeting – Janick Room  
– 4:45 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
– 5:45 pm – Christian Education Meeting – Janick Room  
Thurs: 2/2 – 1:00 pm – Trustees Meeting – Parish House  
Fri: 2/3 – 10:00 am–2:30 pm – Thrift Shop Open  
– 10:30 am – AA Book Club – Parish House  
– 4:00 pm – AA Meeting – Parish House  
Sat: 2/4 – 10:00 am–2:30 pm – Thrift Shop Open  
Sun: 2/5 – 10:30 am – Worship & Communion Service

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us after worship for Coffee Hour in the Parish House! Serving us today are the Christian Education Board and Scholarship Team members.
- Please pick up your copy of the updated History book from Richard Siegel after worship or at Coffee Hour this Sunday and next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Missions Board is sponsoring a “Sock Drive” for our homeless neighbors- please donate new warm socks and place them in the tub in the Narthex. Also, through the Super Bowl on February 12<sup>th</sup>, Missions is sponsoring the “Souper Bowl for Caring”- please donate cans of soup in the Food Pantry bins in the Narthex or make a financial contribution. **Let's meet the challenge of matching the 107 cans of soup we collected last year!**
- The Scholarship Team is now accepting First Church Scholarship Applications! High school graduates who are members of First Church and their extended families are eligible to apply for a General Scholarship, or Continuing Education Scholarship if they have received one of our scholarships in the past. Visit our website for more information and an application.

## **CHURCH MINISTERS**

*Members of the Congregation, Ministers*

*Paul Frederickson, Sexton*

*Dan Reynolds, Administrative Assistant*

*Del Borah, Chair of Christian Education*

*Lynn Bitzer and DeeDee Dyer, Co-Chairs of Deacons*

*Nancy Segall, Chair of Fellowship*

*Lynn Johnson and Betty Trummel, Co-Chairs of Missions*

*John Bitzer, Interim Chair of Trustees*

*Richard Siegel, Historian*

*Lynn Bitzer, pro-tem Clerk*

*Chris Trummel, Interim Treasurer*

*Lynn Carver, Moderator*

*Lynn Carver, Bell Choir Director*

*Marcia Hempel, Music Director & Organist*

*Rev. Susan Thomas, Pastor*

## **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.

## **OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

We bid unqualified welcome to all who seek to know God and encourage full participation of all members in the life of the First Congregational Church of Harwich, a local congregation of the United Church of Christ. We respect, support, and lovingly encourage people of every race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical or mental ability to join us on our journey of faith.

## **SOCK DRIVE for HOMELESS PEOPLE**

The Missions Board is sponsoring a "Sock Drive" for the men and women who are housed at the NOAH Homeless Shelter in Hyannis.

Socks are the #1 clothing need of those experiencing homelessness.

Please donate new and warm socks for adults (white athletic socks are great!)

Place your offering in the tub in the church's Narthex for collecting the socks (next to the bins for our food pantry collection) and the Missions Board will bring them to the shelter.

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## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION UNTIL FEB. 12TH**

The Souper Bowl of Caring empowers us to tackle hunger using the energy of the Big Game- the Super Bowl- on Sunday, February 12th. The Mission Board invites you to transform the Super Bowl into the Souper Bowl of Caring by collecting cans of soup or financial donations.

Please bring in your donation of cans of soup on any Sunday, including the Sunday of the Big Game on February 12th when we will bless our offering. Place your donation in the Food Pantry collection bins in the church's narthex.