

**DECEMBER
2019**



What's new at
THE OLDE WHITE CHURCH



Love in Action

“For Unto Us a Child Is Born, Unto Us a Son Is Given!” - Isaiah 9:6

Greetings Friends in Christ!

It is with profound joy and gratitude that I extend to you my prayers for a most holy and blessed Christmas! During this time of Advent, as we celebrate and anticipate the presence of Christ in our world and in our hearts, I urge us all to find the time in the busiest of seasons to stop and reflect on the gift that is our faith. Our souls are naturally drawn to their Creator and 'tis the season of praise and adoration to the One who first loved us. It is for this reason that we gather together, now more than ever, to find the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love in this hungry, broken world.

Christmas is a time that brings church families together, and here at The Olde White Church, we have many opportunities to celebrate as a family. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome to our special Advent and Christmas celebrations. Come and find a renewed sense of unity and joy to carry you into a bright new year of fellowship with your family of faith. Let us come together and raise our hands, hearts, and voices as one family to God who brought us all together. It would fill me with joy to worship with you!

May God bless you, your families and loved ones this grace filled season.

Blessings,

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Christmas Offering Envelopes

You will find a special Christmas Offering Envelope for your gifts for the church. Please bring your offering to worship or mail to the church office. Thank you for your support!!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 24 THROUGH JANUARY 1 FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

Update on Snowstorms: In case of a major snow storm on a Sunday morning, please check our website, our FaceBook page, or call the church office for an announcement regarding any cancellation.

Greetings Friends in Christ,

There will be a very important Informational Meeting of the Congregation of First Christian Congregational Church on Sunday, December 15, 2019 immediately following worship.

All are invited and urged to attend.

Blessings,
Charlene Orton
Moderator
First Christian Congregational Church

Church Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Pastor Holly's church office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 3:00 pm and she will be working from home on Wednesdays available by appointment.

Pastor Holly would love to have you over for a visit; please call or text her at 808-371-4701 to let her know your coming!

Please call the church office at 508-673-7179 or Pastor Holly at 808-371-4701 for assistance.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

- **Louise Keane**, who is home recuperating from her second hip surgery. She is a bit sore, but feeling better each day. Louise misses coming to church, but hopes to be back very soon. Louise can be reached at 508-678-4292 and receive cards at 442 Florence Street, Fall River, MA 02720. We all wish her a speedy and healthy recovery!!
- **Karen Coffey**, who is undergoing hip replacement surgery. Karen would welcome cards at 8 Brookridge Circle, Swansea, MA 02777.
- **Bob Eddy**, who is at Fall River Healthcare, 1748 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720, for continued medical care.
- **continued prayers for Bernice Church, Rosemary Marshall, Becky Chace, Edna Cartin, Dot Wiggins, Hope Douglass, Betty Stiles, Ken & Nancy Bosworth, and Wallace and Diane Lake.**

“It’s Advent!” Series

Come join us for an “It’s Advent!” Series
on Thursdays, December 5, 12 & 19 starting at 6:00 pm with a light meal

December 5 – “Advent for Dummies”

Join us for an evening of wreath making and learning all there is to know about Advent!

December 12 – Grief Workshop & Comfort Service

Join Mary Finnin and Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick to acknowledge your grief, share memories, challenges and affirm new growth and possibilities when you are grieving a loss during the holidays.

A Comfort Service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

December 19 – “Great Expectation”



DEDICATION OF CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Anyone wishing to dedicate a poinsettia, please fill out this form and send to the Church Office at 1113 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA 02777, Attention: Poinsettias, or place in the mailbox on the door of the Church Office. **The deadline to have your orders in to the Church Office is Sunday, December 8.** Please make checks payable to First Christian Congregational Church with “Flower Fund” in the memo. Thank you!

Your Name _____

Phone Number _____

In memory of _____

Or, in honor of _____

By whom _____

Number of Poinsettias at \$13.00 each _____

Will you be taking your flower(s) after the Christmas Service _____?

Or donating to a shut-in _____?

The names of “in memory of/in honor of and by whom” will be listed in the Worship bulletins for our Christmas Worship Services and dedication cards will be placed on the flowers as they are received each week. Any profits from the sale of the poinsettias will be given to the Church to support the ministries of the church. If you have any questions, please call or text Karen Rebello at 774-644-4178. Thank you for your purchase of the poinsettias and peace plants to decorate the Church, and for honoring our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Any dedications made after December 8 will be at a cost of \$15.00 per plant.

Strictly Sentimental Swing Band



will be performing Big-Band Songs and Christmas Favorites on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Meet & Greet: 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm

Concert: 6:45 pm to 8:10 pm

at **First Christian Congregational Church**
located at 1113 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA

The church is hosting this musical event featuring the Strictly
Sentimental Swing Band.

Contributions are welcome and will benefit our Church.

Please plan to join us for a wonderful event.

Refreshments and fellowship.

All are invited to come and enjoy the big-band sounds of the
Strictly Sentimental String Band playing big-band tunes as well as our
Christmas favorites!!!

Join us for refreshments from 5:45 to 6:30 pm followed by a wonderful
Concert in our beautiful Sanctuary!!
All are welcome!!

If anyone is able to donate desserts for the Meet & Greet, please drop them
off with Sara on Sunday, December 8th.

2019 Special Advent and Christmas Services & Events

You are cordially invited to our special Advent and Christmas services here at The Olde White Church!

December 5 at 6:00 pm: “It’s Advent” Series – “Advent for Dummies”

December 8 at 10 am: Second Sunday of Advent

11:30 am: Cookie Swap & The Polar Express Movie

December 9 at 5:45 pm: Meet and Greet with Strictly Sentimental Swing Band followed by a Christmas Concert at 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. All Welcome!

December 12 at 6:00 pm: Grief Worship

7:00 pm: Service of Comfort

All are invited to join Mary Finnin and Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick to acknowledge your grief, share memories, and affirm new growth & possibilities when you are grieving a loss during the holidays. In a time that seems to expect us to be joyful, come and rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing. A Service of Comfort will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

December 15 at 10 am: Third Sunday of Advent

December 19 at 6:00 pm: “It’s Advent” Series – “Great Expectation”

December 22 at 10 am: Children’s Christmas Service!

The children have been practicing long and hard to bring us a joyful celebration of the birth of Christ. Come and join the shepherds and angels, Mary and Joseph in singing our familiar Christmas songs and allow children to tell us the beloved story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus, the Christ child.

December 22 at 1:00 pm: Christmas Caroling to friends and members who are not easily able to come to church. All welcome!

December 24 at 4 pm: Lively Interactive Family Christmas Service

Come and see as the beloved stories of the birth of the baby Jesus comes alive in ways you and your children have never experienced before! Hear the angels sing, share the shepherd’s excitement, come experience the joy that has come into the world!

December 24 at 7 pm: Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Come and light a candle as the songs of old and words of love fill our hearts and warm our lives. Let us listen to the familiar sounds of the angel’s carol and the gentle coos of the baby. We will listen to the soft call of Mary to gather round and on this most holy of nights and the warmth of joy in this cold, expecting world.

December 29 at 10am: New Year’s Day Worship

“Behold, I will do a new thing!” God has so much in store for us this year at The Olde White Church. Come and welcome the new year – one full of vision, possibility and faith!

MUSIC NEWS....

The choirs are hard at work preparing for our many December worship services. The Choir will be helping to lead worship at our Service of Comfort, our two Christmas Eve Services, and on Sunday morning.

We are excited to host Strictly Sentimental Swing Band on Monday, December 9 starting at 5:45 pm with a Meet & Greet of the Band members followed by a Concert in our sanctuary at 6:45 pm.

All are welcome to go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 22nd, meeting at church at 1:00 pm.

Choir rehearses Tuesday 7 – 8:30 pm and
Sunday 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Tone Chimes rehearse Wednesday 7 – 8 pm

Come sing Praises!
Blessings,
Danielle Avery-Desmarais
508-844-9611

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 22, we will be caroling to those in our congregation who cannot make it to service, who are shut-in, or recovering. We will meet at church at 1:00 pm to bring Christmas to those who cannot come out to us!!



All are invited!!!

DEACONS NEWS.....

We would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in filling our nine Thanksgiving baskets this year. We would also like to give a special shout out to Donna Walker who donated turkeys to add to the baskets in memory of our own Donna Wood.

On Sunday December 8, the deacons will be sponsoring a Cookie Festival along with the showing of The Polar Express right after fellowship. We will have cookie decorating for the kids and a cookie exchange for the adults. If you are interested in the cookie swap, please sign up with Mary Murphy. We will ask each person to make 2 dozen cookies or baked item to be shared with others signed up for the swap. Refreshments will include lemonade, popcorn, cookies, and hot cocoa. Hope you can join us to start off the holiday season.

May God Bless You All.
Peace & Love,
Deacon Chris Roy, Co- Chairperson

Cookie Swap & The Polar Express

**Sunday, December 8
following worship**

**All are invited to bring 2 dozen
cookies or baked items to
share with others
signed up for the Swap!**

**There will be cookie decorating for
the children and a showing of
The Polar Express!**

**Refreshments
will include hot
cocoa, cookies,
popcorn &
lemonade!**



The Sunday School Scoop

It's time for our Christmas Play! Your volunteers are busy getting ready to begin rehearsals on Sunday, December 1. These will take place during the regular Sunday School time, December 1, 8, and 15.

The Play will be held on Sunday, December 22. Arrival time for the children on this Sunday is 9:30 am.

All children are invited to participate. **All children can report to Sunday school immediately on Dec 8th and 15th at 10:00 to begin rehearsals.**

Junior Bells will also play. They will practice in the classroom hall from immediately after services until 11:30 am on November 24, December 1, 8, and 15. Of course there will be a potluck in Fellowship Hall on December 22 and possibly a surprise visitor. Please plan to share this event with our children.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

- **To Sara Lundquist, Mark Burden, the Deacons, the many solicitors and all the veterans** who helped make the 12th Annual Veterans Meat Pie Supper such a success!!
- **A huge Thank You to Nancy Smalzel** for coordinating all the vendors and shoppers that enjoyed our Holiday Craft Fair on November 23rd. Close to \$3,000 was raised for our church's general budget needs!
- **To all the Office Volunteers** who have helped out with folding, stuffing and sorting throughout the year. Deb Gray is thankful for all your help and could not do it all without the help of **Bev Toppin, Sara Lundquist, Karen Rebello, John & Joyce Wilson, Martha Curtis, John Chace & many others.**
- Thank you to **Rev. Dr. John Wilson** for leading us in worship on December 1.
- We extend a very special thank you to **Marie Erickson** for taking the time to carefully choose the perfect squash to donate to our Thanksgiving Baskets. **Thank you, Marie!!**



Veterans' Supper Update!

When members of the Olde White Church set their minds to a project, you can be sure the results will be good.

There were many jobs and everyone that was asked to help said yes – most willingly!! Some jobs were difficult like soliciting and collecting bottles and cans to recycle (a yearlong task), but the jobs were done and look at the results. Some jobs were really fun and we had an abundance of helpers all eager to be part of the excitement.

My job was to socialize with all the guests and make sure things went smoothly. It was a rewarding job to talk with everyone because they were happy to be at the Supper; the food was good and they appreciated the work our Church was doing to assist the Veterans. Everyone spoke very highly of our Church and said it was a pleasure to come here as they are always treated so warmly. People said we have such a good reputation for always supporting the Swansea Community.

Our Church should be proud of the reputation for warmly accepting guests and being supportive of our community.

Thank you to everyone on the Veterans Supper Team; we worked well together to assist Swansea Veterans.

\$8,500 in gift cards and services were given to the Swansea Veterans Agent due to our group effort!!

Thank you,
Sara



Dunkin' Ministry

All are invited to our Dunkin' Ministry each **WEDNESDAY** from 5 – 6 pm in the lounge area of the Wilbur Avenue Dunkin' Donuts in Swansea. Stop in and enjoy a cup of coffee and fun fellowship with Pastor Holly and your friends and family.

All are welcome!!



Fellowship News.....

Every week we have such a great assortment of pastries that everyone enjoys. There seems to be a new favorite in the last few weeks – dough boys!! Of course, deviled eggs are still a strong favorite! We hear many positive comments on the variety of selections and how difficult it is to choose. The cut up oranges were a big hit as were the grapes, so I know healthy food is popular too.

Thank you, thank you to Janina Asselin for making sure the “back stock” is fully stocked. It has been a joy to have so many items to offer our new friends that need a helping hand.

Thank you, thank you to our faithful providers: Janina Asselin, Louise Keane, Mary Finnin, Rev. John Wilson, Charlotte Carlson, Bob Paige, Susan Boucher, Madeline Carvalho, Deb Desjardins, John Marshall, Simone Neilan, Lisa Thomas, and Pauline Viveiros.

Thank you all,
Sara Lundquist

3rd Edition of The Olde White Church Cookbook has Begun.....

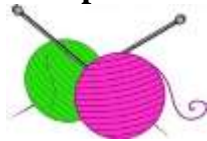
The process of collecting recipes for the 3rd edition of The Olde White Church Cookbook has begun. Each month we are asking for different types of recipes. We ask that you write or type out your recipe on a specific card which Karen Rebello and Joyce Buxton will give you when requested.

For the month of December, Karen and Joyce are collecting Christmas dessert recipes. Please ask Karen or Joyce for your recipe card if you have a tasty dessert recipe you would like to share.

Thank you all for your help!

Our Crochet/Knitting Class will continue to meet each Tuesday, December 3, 10 & 17 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in fellowship hall at a cost of \$10 per class.

Come join us for fun, fellowship, snacks and instruction.



Any questions, please speak to Karen Rebello.

Greetings,

Our very own church member, Mary Lee Prescott-Griffin has an upcoming event involving her "other life" as a crazy fiction writer which we would like to share with all of you.

On December 7th, Mary Lee will be at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet 10-5 for the RI Expo. If you're looking for a fun event, it's a great venue with lots of holiday cheer on every aisle. I'll be signing books as usual, but there are also over a 100 other authors, talks, etc.

If you wish to contact Mary Lee, her contact info. is below:

Mary Lee Prescott-Griffin, Ph.D. (she, her, hers)
Professor of Education
Co-Founder, Wheaton Contemplative Studies Initiative (CSI)
Wheaton College
Norton, MA 02766
Office: 508-286-3641

Help us Help the Church!!!



Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2396571, AmazonSmile donates to First Christian Congregational Church of Swansea?

The Olde White Church received a \$19.38 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2019 without spending any extra money; only by purchasing those items which you already purchase from Amazon. smile.amazon.com will do the rest for us!!

Here is how it works. AMAZON donates 0.5% of your purchase to the church as a charitable donation. This will NOT increase the price of your purchase at all. AMAZON is donating the 0.5% and will do so as long as you choose The First Christian Congregational Church of Swansea as the charity of your choice.

Help us Help the Church!!!



All are invited to the
Ordination of Amie K. McCarthy
into Christian Ministry

being held on Sunday, January 5, 2020
at 3:00 pm at
Second Congregational Church, UCC
50 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703



Having been approved for ordination by the Old Colony Associations of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, Amie has been called to be pastor and teacher of the First Congregational Church of Spencer, in Spencer, MA. Amie is honored to be ordained into Christian Ministry in the sanctuary of her home church, Second Congregational Church, UCC. The church in which she was baptized, learned about God, love, and community, and the church that nurtured, honored, and supported her call to ministry.

All are welcome to attend this worship service!

Members in Discernment and clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles at 2:30 pm in the Parlor.

A reception will be held in fellowship hall following the service.



Congratulations to Rev. Dr. John Wilson for being recognized at the Southern New England , UCC Conference for his 50 years of Ministry!!!



Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, Martha Curtis, Danielle Avery-Desmarais and Mary Finnin, along with Rev. Dr. John Wilson and Mrs. Joyce Wilson, all had a wonderful time at the Southern New England UCC "Unbound" Conference in November.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10:00 am Jr. Hand Bells at 11:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	2 Deacon Team Meeting at 6:00 pm	3 Crochet Class 6:30-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	4 Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> <u>Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm</u> Dunkin’ Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. <u>5 -6 pm</u> Property Team Meeting at 6:15 pm Chimes 7 – 8 pm Children & Youth Team Mtg – 8 pm	5 “It’s Advent -- Advent for Dummies” 6 pm begin with light dinner followed by discussion	6 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	7 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm
8 Worship Service 10:00 am Kids Rehearsal at 10 am Jr. Hand Bells at 11:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Cookie Swap & Polar Express Movie 11:30 am NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	9 Concert by Strictly Sentimental Swing Band at 6:45 pm Meet the Band at 5:45 pm	10 Crochet Class 6:30-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	11 Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Dunkin’ Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. <u>5 -6 pm</u> Chimes 7 – 8 pm Finance Team Meeting at 6:15 pm AT CHURCH	12 Grief Workshop at 6:00 pm Service of Comfort at 7:00 pm	13 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	14 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm
15 Worship Service 10:00 am Kids Rehearsal at 10 am Jr. Hand Bells at 11:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	16 Executive Council Team Meeting at 6:00 pm	17 Crochet Class 6:30-8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	18 Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Dunkin’ Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm <u>Chimes 7 – 8 pm</u>	19 Newsletter Deadline “It’s Advent -- Great Expectation”	20 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	21 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm
22 Children’s Christmas Sunday Service 10:00 am Potluck Luncheon Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Christmas Caroling – meet at 1:00 pm NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	23 Church Office Open	24 Lively Interactive Family Christmas Service at 4 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 7 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26 Church Office Closed through January 1, 2020	27 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	28
29 Worship Service 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	30	31	***Church Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am – 3 pm*** ***Pastor Holly Norwick will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and will be working from home on Wednesday available by appointment***			

First Christian Congregational Church

The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway

Swansea, MA 02777



**DECEMBER
2019**



**First Christian Congregational Church
The Olde White Church**

"A Church Where Faith is Active in Love"

1113 GAR Highway

Swansea, MA 02777

Church Phone: 508-673-7179

Email: swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net

Website: www.theoldewhitechurch.org

Facebook: [FirstChristianCongregationalChurchofSwansea](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianCongregationalChurchofSwansea)

Twitter: @Pastor_Holly

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick, Pastor

Pastor Holly's Phone: 808-371-4701

Worship Service at 10:00 am

Sunday School and Child Care provided

Coffee and fellowship following worship

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday from 9 am – 3 pm

Pastor's Home Work Hours –

Wednesday by appointment

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

All are Welcome!!

Dunkin' Ministry at Dunkin Donuts on Wilbur Avenue	Each Wednesday from 5 – 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Each Tuesday from 7 – 8:30 pm and Each Sunday at 11:30 am
Crochet/Knitting Class	Each Tuesday from 6:30 – 8 pm
Deacon Team Meeting	Monday, December 2 at 6:00 pm
Property Team Meeting	Wednesday, December 4 at 6:15 pm AT CHURCH
Children & Youth Team	Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 8 pm at Church
"It's Advent" Series	Thursdays, December 5, 12 & 19 starting with a light supper at 6:00 pm
Christmas Concert by Strictly Sentimental Swing Band	Meet & Greet with Band at 5:45 pm Concert at 6:45 pm
Finance Team Meeting	Wednesday, December 11 at 6:15 pm AT CHURCH
Grief Workshop & Service of Comfort	Thursday, December 12 Grief Workshop at 6:00 pm Service of Comfort at 7:00 pm
Executive Council Meeting	Monday, December 16 at 6:00 pm
Children's Christmas Sunday	Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 am
Christmas Caroling	Sunday, December 22 at 1:00 pm
Lively Family Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 pm
Candle Light Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm