

**FEBRUARY
2020**



What's new at
**FIRST CHRISTIAN
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



"A Church Where Faith Is Active In Love"

Greetings Dear Friends In Christ,

It is with a full heart that I share with you in this Pastor's message that I will be resigning as Pastor of the First Christian Congregational Church as of March 15th, 2020. As many of you heard in our congregational conversation on Sunday, December 15th, 2019 God has called me back home to Hawaii, and in doing so, has presented me with the opportunity to provide my 4 children with stability and togetherness in a way they cannot enjoy here.

You have loved me unconditionally. You have loved and lead my children – you have been their village through my struggle with cancer, you have been their soft place to land through the divorce, and you are there to support them as we seek what is best for their future. You have truly taught us what a congregation can and should be in this world.

This has been the most incredible 8 years of ministry. I have been so blessed to be part of this amazing family of faith. I have been allowed to grow, to lead, to love and to challenge in the safety of this loving congregation. You have taught me just as much as I may have taught you. Please know that each and every one of you is responsible for the pastor that I am today, and because of that God will use me to bless so many more people.

Now please know, my beloveds, that you have grown strong and compassionate, you love without ceasing and you embrace without hesitation. You have held strong to the foundation of your creation – to be THE church where all people can come to worship, regardless of any category this world can create. Never, ever, ever change that! This world desperately needs you, and you have another 340 years of love and ministry ahead of you. Regardless of your pastoral leadership – YOU are the congregation of this, The Olde White Church, and it is YOU who will continue to love the world around you with reckless abandon. God has great things for this church to do – you need only trust and have faith.

My heart will always be here with you and I will watch from afar as God uses you to do amazing things. I offer my deepest gratitude and warmest Aloha for the last amazing 8 years. Hold on tight to one another, take the very best of our time together, and allow God to lead you into the amazing future!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29: 11

Blessings in Christ,

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

All are invited to the Annual Meeting of First Christian Congregational Church that will take place on Sunday, February 9 immediately following morning worship.

2019 Annual Reports are available in the church narthex or call the church office to request a copy be mailed to you.

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.

**Happy 66th Wedding Anniversary to
Shirley & Lloyd Kenyon!
Best wishes to a wonderful couple!**



**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:

- **The Family of Melissa Reis; Ron Correa's daughter, Melissa,** passed away on January 13 at the age of 57. Our prayers and support go out to Ron, Carol and their family during this difficult time. Ron is accepting cards at 97 Ocean Grove Avenue, Swansea, MA 02777
- **The Family of Irene Rex,** who passed away on January 24 quietly at home at the age of 86. She was a longtime friend and past member of our congregation.
- **Bob Eddy,** who is at Fall River Healthcare, 1748 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720, for continued medical care.
- **Lorraine Viveiros,** who is in hospice care at Clifton Rehabilitative Nursing Center in Somerset.
- **Rev. Barbara Jean, Linda Desmarais, Cheryl Hordern and Evan Colbert** who are all recovering from surgeries.
- **Gwen Donald's sister, Gertrude,** who may be facing surgery.
- **David Lundquist,** who is home recuperating from double pneumonia.
- **Lorraine Barboza, Lloyd & Shirley Kenyon and Gerrit Sanford**
- **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.**

PASTOR HOLLY SCAM HELP NEEDED

Greetings Friends!

As some of you already know, there was an email and telephone scam that happened to our church family this past week. Someone posing as Pastor Holly sent emails and made a few phone calls to members of this congregation asking for help and money and gift cards. We tried to respond as quickly as possible after learning what was happening this past Saturday morning. This is the second time, the last time being August 2019, that someone has emailed disguised as Pastor Holly. It is also happening to countless other clergy in the area. We are taking several precautions administratively to help prevent this from happening again, but know that these scammers are very persistent. If you ever receive an email from Pastor Holly or other members of staff from this church asking for money or help or gift cards - **IT IS A SCAM!** Always call the office or call Pastor Holly's cell phone and confirm the request. The Somerset Police Department has launched a full investigation into this matter. If you have received one of these scam emails, and have the opportunity to forward it to us here at the church to give to the police department, we would be very grateful. **DO NOT** engage with the scammer.

As a result of this incident, we have ordered some fantastic identity theft and scam alert materials that we plan to offer in conjunction with a seminar in the near future. Be on the lookout for that. In the meantime, protect yourselves and our friends, always double check with an in-person phone call or conversation, and spread the word!

Blessings,

Rev. Holly Norwick

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

- **To all church leaders and team chairs who prepared and forwarded their reports for our 2019 Annual Report. It was much appreciated!**
- **To Chris Roy and all the members of our Care Team.**
- **To Deb Desjardins, for being kind enough to work with all of us in taking an All Church Photo on February 2nd.**

Stewardship News.....

Two men were shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific. One immediately panicked and began screaming in terror: "We're going to die! There's no food! No water! It's hopeless! We're going to die!"

"Relax!" the second man said. "Calm down. Everything is going to be fine. I make over \$100,000.00 a month, and each month I give 10% of that to my church. My pastor will find me."

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 February, Karen and Joyce are collecting your favorite Crockpot recipes. Please ask Karen or Joyce for your recipe card if you have a favorite Crockpot recipe you would like to share.

Thank you all for your help!

MUSIC NEWS...

Tone Chimes are looking for a few more players to help with our March piece as well as a piece with the choir for Easter. You don't need to know how to read music, you just need to count. We will teach you the rest. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, March 11th from 7:00-8:00 pm. If you're willing to give it a try, please contact me at 508-844-9611 voice or text, or send me an email danidandco@yahoo.com

Choir meets Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 pm and Sundays at 11:30 pm.
We've begun work on our lent and Easter pieces as well as a piece for Pastor Holly's last Sunday.

Come join us!

Sing to The Lord a new song!
Danielle Avery-Desmarais
Director of Music Ministry
508-844-9611 -- danidandco@yahoo.com

The Sunday School Scoop

We ended Moses Month developing Bible skills by looking up answers to questions about Moses. During February and until Easter, Jesus's life and teachings will be explored. If there is sufficient interest the Junior Bells will learn a piece to play for Easter Sunday. Practices would begin on Sunday, March 1, from 11:30 to 12:00 and continue weekly until Easter. Please let me know if your youngster wants to play.

With our teams of volunteers each Sunday, we are able to welcome all.

Until next month,
Toosie Margolies
for the Children and Youth Ministry Team

FELLOWSHIP NEWS...

Looking at the list of people that have brought desserts this month tells a great story. The story says – in a roundabout way – that people enjoy being at fellowship, that people want to participate in the responsibility and joy of providing refreshments and people really enjoy being with their church family. Awesome!!

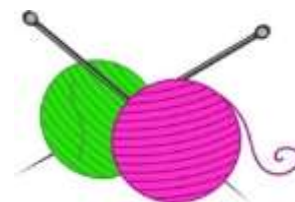
Thank you to Rose & John Marshall, Joyce & John Wilson, Charlotte and John Carlson, Al & Bernice Church, Renee Nunes, Martha Curtis, Louise Slowe, Marilyn Marvel, Madeline Carvalho, Ron Vilao & Barbara Monize, Simone Neilan, and Bob Paige & John Correia.

Thank you for all making fellowship such a pleasurable time.

Thank you,
Sara

Our Crochet/Knitting Class will continue to meet each Tuesday in February 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.



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!!



Paint Night!

February 21st at 5:00 pm

at First Christian Congregational Church

1113 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA

Tickets are \$45 per person

(ticket includes a dinner of lasagna with a hearty meat sauce blended with 3 cheeses, salad, bread, dessert, fruit platter, fresh strawberry and blueberry shortcake topped with whipped cream, cookies, coffee & water)

You MUST sign up and pay in advance to hold your spot.

Please make checks payable to FCCC and place in offering plate, mail to church office, or give to Karen Rebello in Thrifty Shoppe.

We must have a minimum of 15 people to run this event.

Call 508-673-7179 with any questions.



(The above picture is the painting we will paint)

**Plan to join us for this fun night of
fellowship, food and painting!!**

All proceeds to benefit the First Christian Congregational Church's General Funds.

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner



Saturday, March 7, 2020

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**First Christian Congregational Church
1113 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA**

**Get into the spirit and join us for an early Corned
Beef and Cabbage dinner, comedy entertainment,
and an open mic night!**

**Dinner will include Corned Beef, Cabbage,
Carrots, Potatoes, desserts & beverages!!**




**This is a Free Will Donation
Event open to All!**

Please RSVP to the church office at
508-673-7179 or call or text
Bob Paige at 508-514-0840
to make a reservation!

All proceeds to go towards the First Christian Congregational Church's General Fund!!

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>***Church Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am – 3 pm***</p> <p>***Pastor Holly Norwick will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and will be working from home on Wednesdays available by appointment***</p>						<p>1</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p> <p>All Church Photo in Sanctuary at 11:00 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am</p> <p>NA 7:00– 8-30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Deacon Team Meeting at Chris Roy's home at 6:00 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm</p> <p>Dunkin' Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>AA 7 – 8:15 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p> <p>Annual Meeting at 11:00 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am</p> <p>NA 7:00– 8-30 pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Crochet/ Knitting Class 6:30 – 8:30 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm</p> <p>Dunkin' Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm</p> <p>Property Team Meeting at 6:30 pm at Church</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Finance Team Meeting at 6:00 pm at Church</p>	<p>14</p> <p>AA 7 – 8:15 pm</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am</p> <p>Children & Youth Ministry Team Meeting at 11:30 am</p> <p>NA 7:00– 8-30 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Crochet/ Knitting Class 6:30 – 8:30 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm</p> <p>Dunkin' Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Paint Night & Lasagna Dinner at 5:00 pm</p> <p>AA 7 – 8:15 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am</p> <p>NA 7:00– 8-30 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Crochet/ Knitting Class 6:30 – 8:30 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm</p> <p>Dunkin' Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Executive Council Team Meeting at 6:00 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>AA 7 – 8:15 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm</p>

First Christian Congregational Church

The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway

Swansea, MA 02777



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First Christian Congregational 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 – 8:30 pm
All Church Photo	Sunday, February 2 at 11:00 am
Deacon Team Meeting	Monday, February 3 at 6:00 pm at Chris Roy's home, 77 Edwards Ave, Swansea
Annual Meeting	Sunday, February 9 at 11:15 am
Property Team Meeting	Wednesday, February 12 at 6:30 at Church
Finance Team Meeting	Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 pm
Children & Youth Ministry Team Meeting	Sunday, February 16 at 11:30 am in fellowship hall
Paint Night & Lasagna Dinner	Friday, February 21 at 5:00 pm
Executive Council Team Meeting	Thursday, February 27 at 6:00 pm