

**JULY 2020**

***What's new at***

**FIRST CHRISTIAN  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

*“A Church Where Faith Is Active In Love”*



Aloha Friends in Christ!

This is my final Pastor's message for the newsletter and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you for over eight years of amazing ministry together. This congregation has grown in so many remarkable ways, and, in doing so, has informed, enlightened and strengthened me as a minister which allowed me to grow as well.

These last couple of months have been a trying time through the COVID-19 pandemic. With the church closed for in-person gatherings, we were challenged to hold onto one another and find a way of ministry that we never imagined. But we were up to the challenge! God has equipped us over the year to be able to adapt in worship and given us the determination to stay together in the new ways that the world offers right now. I see this challenge as a time that will inform and empower the church in ways that may never have come to fruition otherwise. Your leadership, this whole body of faith, and your community is as strong as ever and I believe that this transition will help to strengthen you even more.

Although we had hoped to have closure in a more traditional way, and every fiber of my being wants to hug each and every one of you one more time, your safety is more important. These last three months of continued worship online has afforded us unforgettable moments and memories that will last forever. With our last Sunday coming up in just a few short days, I will relish our last worship and fellowship as we tearfully and faithfully release one another onto the path that God has paved. Please know that I will continue to prayer for this amazing congregation and watch from afar everything that God has in store for you. The Olde White Church will always be a place where a piece of my heart lives, where my children found God through your love, where some of the most formative moments of my life took place, and some of the most beloved people in my life will continue God's work.

God has truly blessed my life, my family, and my ministry by calling me here, to The Olde White Church, to love, to guide, to support and to walk alongside you. In all of my future ministry endeavors, in all that God has in store for me, you will always be there too, in my heart, in my mind, and in my prayers.

***“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”***

***- Deuteronomy 31:8***

Mahalo Nui Loa,

*Pastor Holly*

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

# Aloha, Pastor Holly!!

## Aloha Car Parade Celebration

We had hoped to have a gathering to say goodbye to Pastor Holly as we close this amazing chapter of ministry; however, our safety is much more important. So, we are getting creative! On Tuesday, July 7th, we will be having an Aloha Car Parade! This will give all of us a chance to actually see Pastor Holly again in person and say goodbye in a fun way. Beginning at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 7th, Pastor Holly will be in front of the church on Route 6. Please plan to meet in front of the old Toys R Us on Route 118 at 6:45 pm and the Swansea Police Department will escort us onto Route 118, then onto Route 6, and then onto Maple Avenue where we will see Pastor Holly and her family. We hope everyone will take a little time that day to drive by and wave, make a sign, paint your car, honk your horn, shout Aloha or whatever you come up with to help celebrate the last eight years of ministry. We will set up the pop up tent, and if you want to drop off a homemade sign or bring something to the church before the Aloha Car Parade, please do so and we will display it during the parade.

Please call the office or speak with Pastor Holly or Charlene Orton if you have any questions or concerns!

## Farewell Message for Pastor Holly

Greetings Friends!

In the spirit of all things going virtual, I am enlisting your help to create a farewell message that we can share with one another. Please take a moment to record a short video message if you can, or submit a picture, or a message about our time together during our ministry together. I will collect them all and, along with footage of the parade on Tuesday, July 7, I will make a farewell video to share with all of you. Your memories of our time together mean more to me than anything else, so please help me capture a glimpse of that time through your eyes. If you want help making a video, please let me know, several of us are happy to stop by and record it if you are unable to do so on your own. You can send these videos, thoughts and pictures to my email: [hollynorwick@gmail.com](mailto:hollynorwick@gmail.com) or to my phone 808-371-4701. Please get them to me no later than July 5 so I can create it and make it available to all of you.

Thank You!  
Rev. Holly



Dear FCCC Swansea folks,

I am delighted to begin as your Intentional Interim Pastor starting in July. While I wish we could meet face to face right away, that will have to wait a while as we live into and through these very challenging times. Meanwhile, here is some background on me. I look forward to soon learning more about each of you. I do believe that we are called to be the church now more than ever. So, I look forward to working with you to serve God and neighbor in the days ahead and to help guide you through this transitional time.

About me:

When folks ask where I am from, I don't have a single answer. I moved many times while growing up--California, Virginia, Ohio, Rhode Island--and felt a call to ministry while a teenager in Los Angeles, CA. I received a BA from the University of Virginia and then my MDiv and MA at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. After seminary I traveled to Durban, South Africa to serve as a UCC missionary where I taught theology and facilitated workshops on many topics including domestic violence. When I returned to the US, I moved to East Lansing, Michigan where I served as a settled Pastor at a large, college-town church for ten years. I worked with the congregation to grow the church into a multi-staff, social justice oriented community. In 2011 I fulfilled a long held dream as my wife, then 2 year old son, and I traveled around the world for a year before moving to Plymouth, MA in 2012 to be closer to family.

For many years I have worked part time with students in Adult Literacy at the Plymouth Public Library where I teach GED students and ESL learners. It is work that continually informs my ministry. From 2017-19 I served as the Intentional Interim Pastor at Pilgrim Church UCC in Lexington, MA until the church called a settled pastor last fall. In my free time I like to be outside, travel, knit, and garden.

About Intentional Interim Ministry:

At this point in my pastoral life, I am dedicated to the specialty work of Intentional Interim Ministry which is different in some ways than settled ministry. Interim time is a great opportunity for churches to grow, learn, and really tune in to God's persistent call to us as faith-filled people. Rather than 'marking time' until the 'real' pastor arrives, my work as an intentional interim is asking lots of (sometimes hard) questions: why do you do things this way? how are you connected to your community and neighbors? what gifts do you have that can serve God's people? what conflict is present or what might be unresolved in your history or current life together? what might need to change? I enjoy interim ministry for the challenges it brings. I think it is an exciting time, if also one of uncertainty and change. My role is to invite church folks into this work that a church might prepare the ground for a fruitful next chapter. This means celebrating and grieving the loss of a former pastor, and engaging in what are often referred to as the five developmental tasks:

**Heritage:** *reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed*

**Leadership:** *reviewing the membership needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership*

**Mission:** *defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction*

**Connections:** *discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself*

**Future:** *developing congregational and pastoral profiles*

The question I am most often asked is how long the interim period lasts. My not-very-satisfactory answer is that it takes as long as it takes. But what I know to be true is that those congregations who truly engage in the work gain a deeper sense of themselves, their mission and the joyful and mysterious calling of God in their midst. I look forward to learning more about your life together. I look forward to hearing your individual stories and inviting you into the questions and opportunity of Interim time wherever that takes us. Finally, I invite you all, including children and youth, to call me "Karen" unless that is uncomfortable for you or counter to your family tradition.

Blessings,  
Karen



**Thank you for your continued support of First Christian Congregational Church!**

**We appreciate everyone who has graciously continued to give to the church during this challenging time.**

**If you are looking for a way to send in your offering, please consider the following:**

*\*submit a donation online using our website: [www.theoldwhitechurch.org](http://www.theoldwhitechurch.org); click on GIVE, make a profile, and choose your giving amount*

*\*drop it off in our mailbox, we have a mail slot*

*\*mail it into the office: 1113 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA 02777*

*\*call Nancy Smalzel at 617-335-9014 and Nancy would be able to pick up and deliver your gift to the church, as well as help with any errands you may need.*

*\*please feel free to drop by the office on a Tuesday or Thursday and drop it off with Deb Gray.*

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Dear Church Members,

I pray everyone is doing fine. Thank you for sending in your tithes and keeping us afloat. Please keep it up so we can enter this new era we are going into with success. The CARES Act PPP Loan helped us get through the last few months. Now it is up to us.

There has been some concern about the mailbox. I understand it is not perfect. Anything can get broken in to, however I believe it is safe. The lights are on all night and the Cumberland Farms clerks are conveniently looking in our direction while doing business. It is a federal approved mailbox. The expense to change it right now would be too great. If you are unsure about the mailbox, feel free to call the church office when you drop off donations. The office is open Tuesday and Thursday 10 am – 2 pm. Deb Gray will be available to retrieve your donation. The box is usually checked Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and occasionally in between. I learn so much from Zoom meetings. I had no idea Deb was checking it so often. Please thank her when you see her.

I know electronic giving is not everyone's strength; I know stamps are getting expensive. We do need and value your tithing and appreciate everyone giving during this Pandemic.

Please take care and stay safe!

Love you all,

John Chace, Treasurer

### **VIRTUAL WORSHIP CALENDAR for JULY**

#### **Sunday, July 5, 12, 19 & 26**

**10:00 am – Sunday morning worship** – on YouTube – link to come, as well as on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianCongregationalChurchOfSwansea/?ref=bookmarks>

**11:00 am Zoom Coffee Hour: Join by clicking**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85288871179?pwd=OXlEOEpXSEdxOWgvOXhnbWModHBTdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 8887 1179

Password: 904521

Or Join by Calling: 1 253 215 8782

#### **Thursday, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**

**7 pm Zoom Check –in. Join by clicking**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89604116781?pwd=VlhzM011TFA3aEZEYUQwTUl5R1Bldz09>

Meeting ID: 896 0411 6781

Password: 918244

Or Join by calling: 1 253 215 8782

## News from the Pews

### Congratulations to All our 2020 Graduates from Preschool to Post Doc and everyone in between!!

Joyce and Ed Buxton would like to honor their granddaughter, **Jordan Abreu**, who graduated magna cum laude from University of Rhode Island Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies virtually on May 17, 2020 with a degree in Elementary Education. Jordan is the daughter of Carol and Peter Abreu.

### Happy Anniversary!

Best wishes to  
**Joyce & Ed Buxton**  
who celebrated their 57th Wedding  
Anniversary on May 30, 2020!

### Congratulations

**Elizabeth Rudis and Steve LaBossiere**  
were married on May 16, 2020 by  
Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick in their backyard.  
We wish them a lifetime of happiness as they  
begin their journey together!

**Happy 94th Birthday to Marie Erickson!!**  
We wish you all the very best!

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### Collection of Cans and Bottles

John Carlson is continuing to collect redeemable cans and bottles during this time. All the proceeds from his collections will go towards the cost of the Veterans Supper in November so that all donations will go directly to local Swansea Veterans in need.

If you have empty cans and bottles, please call or text John at 1-774-644-7471 or 508-677-9539 and he will make arrangements to pick them up. Thank you all for your continued support. Stay safe and God Bless!

## **IN OUR PRAYERS:**

- Prayers are going out to everyone affected by this challenging time, particularly those who are isolated the most during this time of self-quarantine. Please feel free to reach out by phone to your friends, members, and neighbors in need.
- **Rev. Dr. John & Joyce Wilson.** Rev. Wilson continues to recuperate at a facility near his daughter until his ankle heals fully. John & Joyce are receiving cards at Brookdale West Bay, 2783 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI 02889.
- **Bob Eddy**, who is at Fall River Healthcare, 1748 Highland Avenue, Fall River, MA 02720, for continued medical care.
- **Simone Pappas**, who broke her foot again early in May and is recuperating.
- **Continued prayers for Bernice Church, Rosemary Marshall, Becky Chace, Ken Bosworth, Lorraine Barboza, Dot Wiggins, Hope Douglass, Deb Athearn and Betty Stiles.**

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### Deaths in our Family

Bob Paige's father, **John Jardine**, passed away on May 27, 2020 at the age of 77. John was a kind and generous man who helped anyone who needed it. Our prayers and support go out to Bob, John and their family during this difficult time.

Cards may be sent to 78 Goss Street,  
Fall River, MA 02723.

John Chace's mother, **Norma Chace**, passed away on June 5, 2020 at the age of 87 in Williston, Florida. Norma had been a nurse for 40 years, raised her children, and moved to Florida to enjoy the warm weather in 2001. Our prayers and support go out to John, Becky, Abby, Sophia and their entire family during this difficult time.

Cards are welcomed at 50 Neadham Court,  
Swansea, MA 02777.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

- **To Mary Murphy, John Carlson, Elizabeth LaBossiere, Chris Roy, Lisa Thomas, Mary Murphy and Niamh Colbert** for helping to lead worship by offering the readings.
- **To Greg Hordern**, for taking on the job of cutting the lawn and maintaining First Christian Congregational Church's beautiful grounds.
- **To Phyllis Fitzgerald**, for graciously making several face masks and donating them to the church.
- **John Correia and Bob Paige** for adding parking space lines to our lot which better indicates handicap parking spaces.
- **To Pastor Holly, Danielle Avery-Desmarais, Shannon Avery-Desmarais, Evan Colbert and Haylie Schwarzenbach** for continuing to work so hard to offer everyone such beautiful virtual worship services and experiences.

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### Ladybug Sighting!!!

Hi,

This is lady bug Playful. I landed on my owner, Toosie's table with a thump some time ago. She liked my red color, my happy face, and my sturdy, chubby body. We talked and decided that the best place for me to live was on the shelf outside her door. Sometimes when she goes out she picks me up and strokes me lovingly. I get to cheer up all the people who go back and forth in the hall. When she comes back, I'm there to remind her that she has lots of people who care about her. She had just updated her computer to Windows 10 and was slow in learning how to download pictures which is why I haven't written to you sooner. I am very happy being with her, but I can't wait until I can come to church and visit all my relatives.

Thank you for sending me to her.

Ladybug Playful!!



## Music News...

Do you have a hymn you love to sing or play on your favorite instrument? We want to hear it! What talent, hidden or obvious, would you be willing to share as part of our virtual worship services? There are lots of ways you could participate. You could record yourself playing, I could send you an accompaniment to sing along to, I could layer a piece of you singing or playing into a piece with myself or others. . . What creative ideas do you have? Give me a call, text, or email so we can explore possibilities.

*"My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music."* Psalm 57:7

Danielle Avery-Desmarais  
508-844-9611  
[danidandco@yahoo.com](mailto:danidandco@yahoo.com)

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### Items for Sale

We are starting an "Items for Sale" section of our Church Newsletter for anyone who would like an opportunity for direct sales of items that can be safely sanitized. If anyone has an item they would like to advertise in our newsletter, please forward the information to Deb Gray at [swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net](mailto:swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net)

This is our first item for sale from Martha Curtis:

\* 2013 Subaru Outback Limited 2.5Li H4 model wagon with a Harmon AM/FM radio, back-up camera, moon roof, and roof rack. The car is black with heated black leather seats. It has a newly rebuilt automatic transmission (April 2019) in good working order and 4 new tires. It is in "as is" condition and gets 24 mpg in the city and 30 mpg on the highway. It has a current MA inspection sticker and a clear title. It has 157,341 miles, which are mostly highway miles. I hope to have the car detailed prior to the sale. I am asking \$7,500 or best offer.

Please contact Martha H. Curtis if interested at: 774-526-5300 or [martha.h.curtis@gmail.com](mailto:martha.h.curtis@gmail.com)

**In order to keep everyone as safe as possible during this uncertain time, our church leaders have made the decision to continue to keep the Church Building closed due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice.**

**Feel free to reach out and call Deb Gray at the church office, 508-673-7179 or Danielle Avery-Desmarais at 508-844-9611 with any questions or concerns you may have.**

**Remember, church is not the building, WE ARE!**

**Let's stay strong, church – together.**

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**Due to the continued Church Closure, there will be no in person worship services, in house meetings, Thrifty Shoppe openings, Dunkin' Ministry, or choir rehearsals taking place in June.**

\*Residents of Swansea are able to watch our Virtual Worship Service on their TV, if they have Comcast as their provider, on Channel 15 on Sundays at 9 am, Mondays at 8 am, and Tuesdays at 10 am.

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### **Basketball Hoop for FREE!!**

The Olde White Church is looking to giveaway the basketball hoop that is currently in a horizontal position on the side of the shed. We have decided to dispose of it and would like to make it available to anyone in the congregation who is interested in taking it and putting it to good use!

Please contact Bob Paige at 508-514-0840 or [fenceman\\_1@comcast.net](mailto:fenceman_1@comcast.net) if you are interested in picking it up.

Thank you!!

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### **VIRTUAL JULY MEETINGS**

Due to the building being closed and the decision of our leadership to not gather in person, all church team meetings are currently being held via Zoom. If you are interested in attending any of the meetings below for the purpose of listening and having input, please contact the church office for the specific link or phone number to join in the meeting. You do not need a computer; you may access the meeting using your phone only. When a decision needs to be made, only voting members are able to vote; guests are unable to vote. Please contact Deb Gray at 508-673-7179 or [swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net](mailto:swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net) to request the link to any meeting.

**\*Wednesday, July 8th: Property Team Meeting via zoom at 6:00 pm**

**\*Thursday, July 9th: Finance Team Meeting via zoom at 5:30 pm**

**\*Tuesday, July 14th: Re-Opening Planning Meeting at 6:30 pm via zoom. If you are interested in learning about and helping with the church re-opening, please call or email the church office or Charlene Orton at [charlene.orton10@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.orton10@gmail.com)**

**\*Monday, July 20th: Outreach Team Meeting via zoom at 7:00 pm**

**\*Thursday, July 23rd: Executive Council Meeting via zoom at 5:30 pm**

## First Christian Congregational Church Family!!!



Row 1 is the first row in pews; Row 7 is the last row closest to the organ.

**ROW 1** -- John Marshall, Annie Colbert, Joan Colbert, Beverly Toppin, Toosie Margolies , Abby Chace, Rose Marshall, Sophia Boucher, Scott Hordorn, Cheryl Hordorn, Naomi Imbeault , Gwen Donald, Deb Lotz, Fiona the dog , Charline Brodeur-Smith, Robert Smith

**ROW 2** -- Danielle Avery-Desmarais, Shannon Avery-Desmarais, Ronald Desmarais, Pauline Viveiros, Tom Viveiros, Aidan Yost, Brody Shaker, Sophia Ferreira, Niamh Colbert, Sara Lundquist, Louise Keane, Renee Nunes, Lorraine Barboza, Ed Barboza, Bette Cahoon

**ROW 3** -- John Chace, Becky Chace, Simone Neilan, Louise Slowe, Karen Rebello, Margaret Rego, Jill Buxton, Joyce Buxton, Grace Schwarzenbach, Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, Hailey Schwarzenbach, Christine Roy, Bernice Church, Albert Church, Janina Asselin, Jerry Grota, Nancy Richards

**ROW 4** -- Lisa Thomas, Joanne Noyes-Carey, Mary Murphy

**ROW 5** -- Lucia Kimball, Bob Paige, John Correia, Mary Finnin, Jack Reynolds, Bob Baker, Evan Colbert, Joyce Wilson, Rev. John Wilson, Thomas Davol, Marie Erickson, Gina Weyland, Beverly Waterman

**ROW 6** -- Ken Hurley, Jennifer Hurley, Charlotte Carlson, Patti Shaker, Phyllis Fitzgerald, John Carlson, Ron Correia, Carol Correia, Nancy Smalzel, Shirley Kenyon, Lloyd Kenyon

**ROW 7** -- Martha Curtis, Jill Tavares , Alyssa Hurley, Joanne Thomas, Seth Thomas, Madeline Carvalho, Elizabeth LaBossiere, Steven LaBossiere, Susan Boucher



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 
<b>5</b> 10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Aloha Car Parade for Pastor Holly Meet at 6:45 at Toys R Us Parking Lot	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Property Meeting via Zoom	<b>9</b> 5:30 Finance Team Meeting via <u>Zoom</u> 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Re-Opening Planning Meeting via zoom at 6:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>20</b> Outreach Meeting at 7 pm via zoom	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Executive Council Meeting at 5:30 pm via Zoom 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 pm Zoom Coffee Hour	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Zoom Check In	<b>31</b>	

**\*\*\*All July services will be available on our Facebook page and on Zoom through a link that will be sent to your email\*\*\***

**\*\*\*If you are interested in participating in any of our zoom meetings, please call or email the church office and we will send you the information you need. You do not need a computer; you may call in on your phone.\*\*\***

# First Christian Congregational Church

## The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway  
Swansea, MA 02777



**JULY  
2020**



### 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](mailto:swanseawhitechurch@meganet.net)

Website: [www.theoldewhitechurch.org](http://www.theoldewhitechurch.org)

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

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 Closed to the public during July

## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

**All are Welcome!!**

Virtual Worship Service	July 5, 12, 19 & 26 10:00 am by email link and Facebook 11:00 am Coffee Hour/Fellowship
Virtual Check in	Thursday, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 7:00 pm Zoom Check in – look for link
Aloha Car Parade for Pastor Holly Norwick	Line up cars at 6:45 pm in Toys R Us Parking Lot to drive by church
Property Team Meeting	Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 pm
Finance Team Meeting	Thursday, July 9 at 5:30 pm
Re-Opening Planning Meeting	Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm via Zoom
Outreach Team Meeting	Monday, July 20 at 7:00 pm
Executive Council Team Meeting	Thursday, July 23 at 5:30 pm via Zoom