

**MARCH
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 the amazing eight years of ministry that we have had together. This congregation has grown in so many remarkable ways, and, in doing so, has informed, enlightened and strengthened me as a minister.

I have had the privilege of walking through so much with you. I had the great honor of helping this family of faith heal from a painful past transition. During that time, we learned to trust one another, listen to one another, share ourselves with each other and, most importantly, allow God to move through this church in ways that we never expected. As the healing took place, the Spirit took off and lead us down paths that integrated us into the community, opened our minds to recognize and address growing edges of faith, draw closer to one another in joy and in sorrow, step out on faith and land in such a way that this transition, though sad, is not scary – because we know that God is at the helm and we have been commissioned to follow. We can now remind each other that we have learned what we need to know moving forward and we will continue to be the loving, affirming, joyful, crazy congregation that we have grown to be.

You have also walked with me through the joys and sorrows in my life. I can still remember the comfort and support that I received when I shared my cancer journey with you. I will be eternally grateful that you allowed me to continue to be your pastor during that time. My four children love you deeply. You have been their village in ways you will never fully realize. They so often lift up a memory, or a laugh about their time with you, and you will be a part of what church actually looks like on their life journey. Each of them will carry a piece of this church with them always. You have been our bedrock and soft place to land during the divorce and the changes in our lives as a result. And now, as we enter into our largest transition together, the love and support we have received and the openness with which we are able to share this experience has made all of us stronger as we face our next steps apart from one another.

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,

The Reverend Doctor Holly Norwick

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Care Team Meeting

There will be a Care Team Meeting with Pastor Holly on Saturday, March 7 from 10 – 12 at Chris Roy's home at 77 Edwards Avenue, Swansea, MA. We will be updating our current lists and establishing a Visiting Team at that time. Anyone who is not currently on the Care Team, but may be interested in doing home visits with congregational members is asked to speak with Chris Roy at church or call her at 508-642-4568.

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.

**Congratulations and Best Wishes
to Karen Rebello and Roland Soucy
on their
Service of Commitment performed by
Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick in our sanctuary
on February 22, 2020!!**



Miss Sophia Ferreira ready to walk down the aisle on the special day!!

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:

- **Rev. John and Joyce Wilson.** Rev. Wilson fell on February 14 and broke several bones in his ankle, and is home resting for at least a month. John's daughters and extended family are taking good care of them both. John is able to receive phone calls at 774-365-6731, cards and visits at 55 Sunset Drive, Somerset, MA 02725.
- **Nancy and Ken Bosworth.** Nancy fell, had surgery, and is awaiting transfer to a rehabilitation facility. Nancy would appreciate cards sent to 121 Vinnicum Road, Swansea, MA 02777.
- **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.
- **Lorraine Barboza, Lloyd & Shirley Kenyon, Gerrit Sanford, and David Lundquist**
- **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.**

Aloha, Pastor Holly

The Deacons would like to wish Pastor Holly much success in her new venture. It has been both a blessing and a privilege to serve alongside her. On behalf of the entire congregation, we say farewell until we meet again. Go forward to serve and love one another. Thanks for the memories.

In celebration of our time together with Pastor Holly, we will be having a Farewell Potluck Luncheon in her honor on Sunday, March 15th immediately following worship so that we can say our goodbyes and wish her well. If you wish to make a dish to share, please speak to Chris Roy in Church or call her at 508-642-4568.

Although we are saddened that Pastor Holly's time with us is coming to an end, please plan on joining together to wish her, Haylie, Kacie, Amberly and Gracie well in their next chapter of life.

Aloha and Mahalo Nui Loa to Pastor Holly!



Interim Pastor Search Team Update...

The Executive Council approved an Interim Search Team consisting of 8 members at their January 2020 meeting. The Team includes Bob Baker, John Chace, Evan Colbert, Marian "Toosie" Margolies, Bob Paige, Karen Rebello, Jill Tavares, with Martha Curtis as Chair.

The Team has met weekly since the end of January to prepare a draft Profile of the Church for the Interim Search Process. We have been led by the UCC questionnaire that was provided by the Southern New England UCC Conference (SNEC) Minister, Rev. Patty Kogut.

The Team has had good discussions as a large group that collected answers to the questions as ideas and suggestions on paper from everyone in the group. Then the team split into 2 task groups to edit, consolidate and prioritize the suggestions from the previous meetings into a more refined list of answers to the questions on the Profile form.

The next step is to combine the work of the 2 task groups into a single set of responses on the draft Interim Profile that can be reviewed in a meeting with Pastor Holly and Rev. Patty Kogut before the final draft is released to the UCC regional office.

Thank you for your interest in the process of the Interim Search Team. Please feel free to ask questions regarding the process to any member of the task group, including myself. We are working to getting our ideas on paper so our needs and wishes can be processed by the Associate Conference Minister's computer.

Martha H. Curtis,
Chair, Interim Search Team

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

- **To Rev. Dr. John Wilson** for leading us in worship on February 9th
- **To the Deacons** for leading us in worship on February 16th.

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

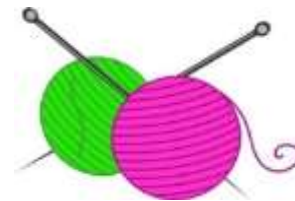
The process of collecting recipes for the 3rd edition of The Olde White Church Cookbook has begun. Each month we are asking for different types of recipes. We ask that you write or type out your recipe on a specific card which Karen Rebello and Joyce Buxton will give you when requested.

For the month of March, Karen and Joyce are collecting your favorite Appetizer recipe. Please ask Karen or Joyce for your recipe card if you have a favorite Appetizer recipe you would like to share.

Thank you all for your help!

Our Crochet/Knitting Class will continue to meet each Tuesday in March 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!!

MUSIC NEWS...

Tone Chimes are still 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're working 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

FELLOWSHIP NEWS...

It happened again; we had another one of those scary moments. There it was – ten minutes to ten and only two desserts to choose from! Silly to worry because at one minute to ten, we had a table loaded with great selections; enough to send extra home to some. Incidents like that remind us of how important our contribution can be.

Many – and I mean MANY – thanks to our always faithful people that bring desserts. Thank you Mary Finnin, Charlotte Carlson, Gwen Donald, Chris Roy, Louise Keane, Janina Asselin, Charlene Brodeur-Smith, Madeline Carvalho, Louise Slowe, Cheryl and Greg Horder, John and Rosemary Marshall, Ron and Carol Correa.

Thank you,
Sara

OUTREACH TEAM...

The Outreach Team met to discuss their mission experiences and their hopes for missions in the future. There was a wide variety of experiences from making and selling bracelets for an animal shelter to time spent in the Peace Corps. Other experiences included feeding the homeless, walks for Alzheimer's, working in orphanages and a partnership with a sister church in El Salvador.

In the future, individuals hope to work in a soup kitchen, mentor at risk youth and volunteer in a children's shelter. The group is also interested in longer term missions in Providence and Appalachia. Members expressed wishes to include our Sunday school and other youth.

Our next meeting is on Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm, in the room behind the kitchen. Refreshments provided.
All are welcome.



We are sincerely grateful for all your generous donations. Your contribution truly makes a difference in the lives of our friends in LaMothe, Haiti. With donations like yours, we are able to educate and feed over 200 school children and lend support to their families.

Thank you so much!

The Sunday School Scoop

According to the liturgical calendar, Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 26. This means we are now in the count down until Easter. In my childhood it was a solemn time. We were encouraged to give up something we liked to do to better understand and be reminded of Jesus's time of temptation. Today I see it as a time set apart in the liturgical year to become more aware and receptive to God's presence in our lives, to grow our faith. In Sunday School, during March, we will be learning about the events in Jesus's life between Palm Sunday and Easter. We will be getting ready for a joyous celebration on Easter Sunday. Will your children be a part of it? If there is sufficient interest, a Jr. Hand Bell Group will start practicing on March 8, the day daylight saving time begins, 11:30 to 12:00. We will also be singing some special songs. Come and learn with us!

For those of you who have infants and young toddlers, there is a place for them in our Sunday School area. You may bring them down, after 9:45 am before you go to services, a volunteer will be ready to stay with them until services are over. (If you would like to volunteer about one Sunday a month, speak to me or leave your name in the office with Deb. We are updating our list.) The other children/youth will go down with their teachers after the children's message.

See you at church!

Toosie Margolies
for the Children and Youth Ministry Team



Sophia Ferreira and Cameron Doyle working and having a great time in The Thrifty Shoppe!



Thank you to Brandon, our wonderful volunteer from Somerset Berkley Regional High School who did such a great job organizing our bookcase!!

It is now a wonderful collection of books in our narthex nook for all to borrow.

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!!

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

is hosting its

Annual Lenten Dinner
Friday, March 27, 2020
5 pm – 7 pm

**Come and enjoy a wonderful
meal consisting of a
Grilled Cheese Sandwich,
a Bowl of Blount Soup,
Desserts and Drinks!**



**All are invited to share their
musical talents by singing
or playing an instrument
during the evening.**

**The performances will
begin at 6:00 pm.**

**This is a Free Will Offering Event and all proceeds will benefit the
Deacons' Samaritan Fund!**

Please RSVP to the church office at 508-673-7179 to make a reservation!

**The Deacons will be sponsoring our Lenten Dinner on Friday, March 27 from
5 – 7 pm and are requesting that people who sing or play an instrument
share their talents with everyone that evening beginning at 6 pm.**

Feel free to share this event with your friends and family.

All are invited to join us!!

DEDICATION OF EASTER FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to purchase Easter Flowers, please fill out this form and mail to the Church Office at 1113 G.A.R. Highway, Swansea, MA 02777, Attention: Easter Flowers, 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, April 5.** Please make checks payable to First Christian Congregational Church with "Flower Fund" in the memo. Thank you!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Your Name _____ Phone Number _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

Lilies ____ Tulips ____ Daffodils ____ Hyacinth _____ (\$11.00 Donation each)

A Limited Supply of Decorative Easter Balls are available at a cost of \$10.00 each. They are all homemade using a 3 inch ball with a minimum of 250 common pins per ball! They are available in a variety of spring colors such as blue, peach, pink, purple and yellow per request.

Please indicate how many you would like to order and which colors you would prefer. Thank you!!



Will you be taking your flowers(s) after the Easter Sunday service _____? Or donating to a shut-in _____? The names of "in memory/honor of", will be listed in the Easter Sunday Worship bulletin. Any profits from the sale of the flowers 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 flowers to decorate the Church, and for honoring our brothers and sisters in Christ!

We must order flowers on April 6. Any dedications made after that date will be at a cost of \$13.00 per plant.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Applications for the **Harland O. McNeill Memorial Scholarship** are available at the church office and on the lower bulletin board in fellowship hall. To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be a member in good standing of the First Christian Congregational Church of Swansea, MA and currently enrolled in or accepted by an accredited college or university as a full time student. The completed application must be returned to the church office no later than May 15, 2020.

One scholarship of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** will be awarded each year if there is a qualified candidate. Payment usually will be made directly to the school involved at the beginning of the second semester after the recipient has successfully completed at least one semester.

Selection of the recipient in any given year shall be the responsibility of a committee of five members: the Treasurer, one Executive Council member, one Deacon, one member of the Board of Religious Education, and a member-at-large. High School Seniors, college undergraduates and adult church members are encouraged to apply.

Scholarship Committee

Dear Family and Friends of Carolyn A. Sampson,

Thank you for your previous gifts to the Carolyn A. Sampson Memorial Scholarship. As you may know, it has been eleven years since Carolyn passed. In her honor, we have been awarding a memorial scholarship to a qualified Case High graduating senior for ten years. Usually, the scholarship is presented by Renee or JonCarl Bernier or me at the Case High Senior Class Awards Ceremony.

I have been participating in the selection of a qualified graduating senior from the Case High senior class. Carolyn's scholarship is given to a Case High senior who plans to continue their education at a professional, technical, or vocational institution, not always a four-year academic institution. We look for students that have been actively involved in music or theatre programs at Case High School, and we are partial to students who have participated in marching band and/or theatre productions, as well.

The previous winners of Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship include: Kirsten Gonsalves (2010); Taylor DeMoranville (2011); Brittany Costello (2012); Samantha Hussey (2013); Lauren Dunn (2014); Amanda Feno (2015); Samantha Coffey (2016); Haylie Schwarzenbach & Alyson Tavares (2017); and Madisyn Ferreira (2018). Ten awardees have been given a \$500 scholarship after the first year of the CAS Memorial Scholarship, based on the interest earned by the trust. In the first year, we were only able to award a scholarship of \$450.

I wanted to remind everyone that it is once again time to consider making a gift to Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship. I want to thank you and acknowledge that you are part of Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship team, so that's why I included the names of the past awardees. Gifts to Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship are welcome until April 25, 2020.

If you are interested in making a contribution to Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship, you should send your gift to: Treasurer, Case High Scholarship Trust, Inc. The mailing address is: P.O. Box 33, Swansea, MA, 02777. Checks should be made payable to: Case High Scholarship Trust, Inc.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship.

Sincerely,
Martha H.Curtis
CAS Scholarship Coordinator
Martha.H.Curtis@Gmail.com

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Children & Youth Meeting 11:30 am NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	2 Deacon Team Meeting at Chris Roy's home at 6:00 pm	3 Crochet/ Knitting Class 6:30 – 8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	4 Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Dunkin' Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm	5	6 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	7 Thrifty Shoppe <u>9:30 am-1 pm</u> Care Team Meeting @Chris Roy's home 10 – 12 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 4 – 7 pm
8 Worship Service 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Jr. Hand Bells 11:30 - noon NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	9	10 Crochet/ Knitting 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. 5 -6 pm Property Team Meeting at 6:30 pm at Church Tone Chimes 7 – 8 pm	12 Finance Team Meeting at 6:00 pm	13 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	14 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am– 1 pm
15 Pastor Holly's Farewell Service 10:00 am With Potluck Luncheon to follow for all! NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	16	17 Crochet/ Knitting 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. <u>5 -6 pm</u> Tone Chimes 7 – 8 pm	19 	20 AA 7 – 8:15 pm	21 Storage Room Cleanout 9 am Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm
22 Worship Service 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Jr. Hand Bells <u>11:30 - noon</u> NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	23 Outreach Team Meeting at 6:30pm	24 Newsletter Deadline Crochet/ Knitting Class 6:30 – 8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	25 Thrifty Shoppe <u>10 am – 4 pm</u> Quilt Club 1 – 3 pm Dunkin' Ministry at DD on Wilbur Ave. 5 -6 pm Tone Chimes 7 – 8 pm	26 Executive Council Meeting at 6:00 pm	27 AA 7 – 8:15 pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich Dinner 5 – 7 pm	28 Thrifty Shoppe 9:30 am – 1 pm
28 Worship Service <u>10:00 am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>11:30 am</u> Jr. Hand Bells <u>11:30 - noon</u> NA 7:00- 8-30 pm	30	31 Crochet/ Knitting Class 6:30 – 8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 – 8:30 pm	***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 Wednesdays available by appointment***			

First Christian Congregational Church

The Olde White Church

1113 GAR Highway
Swansea, MA 02777



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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

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
Tone Chime Rehearsal	Wednesday, March 11, 18 & 25 from 7 – 8 pm
Crochet/Knitting Class	Each Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Children & Youth Team Meeting	Sunday, March 1 at 11:30 am in back kitchen
Deacon Team Meeting	Monday, March 2 at 6:00 pm at Chris Roy's home, 77 Edwards Ave, Swansea
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	Saturday, March 7 from 4 – 7 pm
Property Team Meeting	Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 at Church
Finance Team Meeting	Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm
Pastor Holly's Last Sunday -- Farewell Potluck Luncheon	Sunday, March 15 at 10:00 am
Storage Closet Cleanout	Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 am
Outreach Team Meeting	Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm in back kitchen
Executive Council Team Meeting	Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm
Lenten Soup & Sandwich Dinner	Friday, March 27 from 5 – 7 pm