



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
200 Main Street, P.O. Box 1300 - Wellfleet, MA 02667-1300  
Worship Services – Sundays at 8:30a.m. and 10:00a.m.

**The Rev. Jon Elsensohn**  
Phone (508)349-6877 - FAX (508)349-7732  
Email: [wellfleetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wellfleetchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.wellfleetchurch.org](http://www.wellfleetchurch.org)

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone; when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart.*

-Howard Thurman, "The Work Of Christmas"

It seems odd to be writing this message now, on the 20th of December. In just a little while, I will be leading the final "It's A Wonderful Life" Advent discussion. Tomorrow we will hold our Longest Night/Blue Christmas service; Christmas Eve is almost here. For all of the significance we place on the celebration of Christmas, it is all too brief. The 12 Days of Christmas run through Epiphany, celebrated each year on January 6th. For most people, though, Christmas ends with the New Year, and a return to work and the normal schedule of life.

For Christians, Christmas is not merely a single day, or even a season: it is a reorientation of our priorities. We prepare ourselves with the season of Advent: marking our weeks with attention to hope, peace, joy, and love. Rather than a countdown to the big day, Advent serves to prepare us for the work of Christmas, which has little to do with decorations, presents, and feasting. As the theologian Howard Thurman notes, the work of Christmas is finding the lost, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, and so on.

As we enter into a new year my hope is that we can keep the value of Christmas alive in our common life. We will have many opportunities to offer kindness and support to friends, neighbor, and stranger alike. May this coming year be one which sees the impact that First Congregational Church has on the life of this community continue to strengthen and grow. And may we the person of the Christ child reflected in all of the faces that we encounter. Happy New Year! -Pastor Jon

Please join us for our free  
*Community Lunch*  
Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - Noon to 1:30pm



Soup, bread, salad and dessert  
Everyone is welcome!

(Lunches will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, October-May)

First Congregational Church of Wellfleet

200 Main Street, Wellfleet

508-349-6877

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#### PRAYER LIST

Please contact the church office to add a name or update this list.  
“If one member suffers, all suffer together...If one member is honored, all rejoice together.”(1 Cor. 12:26) May the presence of Jesus Christ be with those on our PRAYER LIST and with those who care for them. Pray for:

*Gary Cooper*  
*Ann Kelley*  
*Christy Milliken*  
*David Powers*  
*Carol Spencer*  
*Fred Vitek*

*Daphne Frampton*  
*Barbara Knapp*  
*Weston Moss*  
*Miranda Regan*  
*Jack Troxel*

*John Garran*  
*Rosalind Magill*  
*Gina O'Connor*  
*Todd Roy*  
*Dennis Ubriaco*

And for those who are chronically ill and confined to their homes, nursing homes and hospitals. **Please notify the Pastor or the church office when family or friends are hospitalized.**

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO....

**Margaret Tilton who won the quilt raffle this year.**

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**JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS !**

- 1/4 Andrew Porteus
- 1/5 Brielle Lajoie
- 1/6 Lynne Milliken
- 1/8 Jon Elsensohn
- 1/11 Elaine Dee
- 1/12 Peter Swanson
- 1/15 Emma Smith
- 1/20 Addie Winslow
- 1/22 Shema Rubdi
- 1/26 Faye Lindberg
- 1/27 Jeff Kemprecos
- 1/31 Boone Scalcione



**THANK YOU.....**



Dear Church Family,

Once again, our annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale Fundraiser was a huge success! We made \$2,332. in sales & donations to contribute to our Scholarship Fund!

I keep saying this, but I can't emphasize enough how thankful we are to all the generous bakers!!! This fundraiser would not happen without your caring support. This year, the pie & fall bread donations totaled 86 items for sale!! That's incredible since we're a fairly small group of pie contributors, but we certainly are relentless, generous, & mighty bakers!!

Much Appreciation,  
The Missions & Outreach Committee

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Thank you to all who participated in the Craft/Christmas fair on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Members & friends came together to staff the tables, bake cookies, tend to the kitchen, serve meals, set-up and clean-up. A total of \$2,376.84 was raised.

Thank you to Charlotte Hands & her daughter Dianne who have set-up and coordinated the fair for several years. This was there last year helping and they will be missed!

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Thank you to those who volunteer for the Community Luncheon on Mondays. The next one is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> , 12:00pm-1:30pm.

## **Nauset Neighbors Volunteer Opportunity**

Want to make a difference in a neighbor's life? Join us at Nauset Neighbors, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, that helps senior stay in their homes and active in their communities. You can help by providing friendly visits, rides to appointments, tech assistance and simple handyman tasks. Volunteering is easy and flexible. Sign up online to help when it fits your schedule.

The members we help live in your communities of Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, and Wellfleet. We have a waiting list of seniors who need a hand. You can shorten their wait by volunteering with Nauset Neighbors.

Contact us at: [nausetneighbors.org](http://nausetneighbors.org) or call at 508-514-7067



### **TELL A FRIEND ABOUT THE FOOD PANTRY!**

**Open Monday, 3-6; Wednesday 4-6, and Thursday 10-12**

Last year the Wellfleet Food Pantry provided food to 185 Wellfleet families, but we know there are more families who could use a little help. Would you help us by telling your friends who live in Wellfleet about the Food Pantry and invite them to come?

The Wellfleet COA delivers food boxes from the pantry twice per month to seniors who no longer drive, please call the COA at 508-349-0313 to sign up or get more information.

***Our volunteers thank you for your help.***

#### **WELLFLEET FOOD PANTRY - Food for Neighbors**

25 Lieutenant Island Road

South Wellfleet, MA 02663

508-349-3036 - Visit our website: [www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org](http://www.wellfleetfoodpantry.org)

# First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA = Alcoholics Anonymous FMC= Financial Management Comm. Handicap Accessible MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society	<b>1 New Year's Day</b> <b>Office closed</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00-11am – MS 10:00am – WHS	<b>3</b> 9:00am-2pm – MS 4:30pm – Mission & Outreach mtg.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>7 First Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Comm. 11:15am – Fellowship	<b>8</b> 8-10am – MS 12:00-1:30pm – Community Luncheon 	<b>9</b> 8:00-11am – MS 10:30am – Care Team 4:30pm Mission & Outreach	<b>10</b> 9:00-2pm – MS  <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE IN OFFICE</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>14 Second Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am -Choir reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15 Fellowship 11:15 Diaconate mtg.	<b>15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>Office closed</b> 8-10am – MS	<b>16</b> 8:00-11am – MS  <b>Pastor Jon – away</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00-2pm – MS  7:00pm – Trustees <b>Pastor Jon – away</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Pastor Jon – away</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Pastor Jon – away</b>	<b>20</b> Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA <b>Pastor Jon – away</b>
<b>21 Third Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am- Worship 11:15am – Fellowship	<b>22</b> 8-10am – MS	<b>23</b> 8:00-11am – MS	<b>24</b> 9:00-2pm – MS	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am –Annual Mtg.	<b>29</b> 8-10am – MS	<b>30</b> 8:00-11am – MS 10:30am – Care Team 3-5:30pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	<b>31</b> 9:00-2pm – MS			