



**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 I was in my 20's, my friend and I did a good deal of winter hiking. We would layer our clothes, put on parkas and snow pants, strap on snowshoes or crampons, and head out to climb a mountain. When out for long periods in below freezing temperatures, you quickly become aware of how precious warmth is. When the winds blow and the snow falls, the only thing capable of generating heat (outside of a fire) is yourself. The layers of moisture wicking fabrics, wool, fleece, and windproof clothing don't *make* you warm: they *keep* you warm, by retaining the body's natural heat.

There is a lesson here for us as we enter into winter. As the world around us grows colder and darker by the day, we are obliged to find sources of light and heat. One source for that lies within, deep within our souls, where we feel the presence of God. The warmth and illumination from God can sustain us as the shadows lengthen, as the snows fall, as the winds of winter bite.

This month we begin our celebration of Advent, a time when we remember God entering our world in a new way, in the form of a small child. We celebrate that, into the darkness of the world, into the chilliness that humanity often feels for one another, Jesus came, asking us to shine like lanterns on a hill. This month, as we gather with friends and family, as we sing old songs and tell old stories, may we share the warmth that lives and dwells among us with all we meet. In spite of the cold, in spite of the chill, may we be the ones to offer light and warmth to those journeying through the winter wild.

~ Pastor Jon



## DECEMBER EVENTS

### **Build an Advent Wreath: Saturday, December 2nd, 11am - 12pm**

Begin Advent by building an Advent Wreath with your family. Bring some clipped greens from your yard (additional greens will be available to supplement). Learn how to assemble a wreath, the meaning behind this tradition, and bring home a beautiful seasonal decoration. Candles and wreath forms will be provided. Bring the whole family!

### **White Gift Sunday – December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

You're invited to bring a toy wrapped in white paper and marked for a boy or a girl. Please consider teen members of our communities whose families are in need. Stop & Shop offers a variety of gift cards for purchase, such as iTune cards, Barnes & Noble, Best buy and American Express gift cards. Please label gift card **“for teenager”** or **“for child”**. Gifts for teens will be donated to the Lower Cape Outreach and children's gifts will be donated to Mass Appeal for distribution.

### **Longest Night: Thursday, December 21st @ 7pm**

Advent and Christmas can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one, those who are far from home, those who struggle with worry. Join us for a special service, as we gather on the longest night of the year. During this time of prayer and reflection, as we begin in darkness and move toward the light and hope that is the heart of our Advent season. All are welcome.

### **Family Candlelight Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24th, @ 4pm**

Celebrate the “Reason for the Season” with us at First Congregational! Our family-friendly service will contain familiar Christmas hymns and carols, the reading of the Christmas story, and a special Christmas message from Pastor Jon. Light a candle with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

### **Advent Study Group – Wednesdays, November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Have you ever wondered why “It’s A Wonderful Life” has such a lasting impact on our holiday season? Take a deeper dive into this beloved Christmas classic this Advent! Each Wednesday, we will read a selection from “To Live Again” by Sheila Jacobs, watch companion scenes from the film, and discuss its meaning for our lives. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Pastor Jon or the church office.

The Advent Wreath is a fixture in most Churches that helps count-down to Christmas.



Build your own Advent Wreath with us.

**Where:** Congo Church

200 Main St. Wellfleet

**When:** December 2, 2023

**Time:** 11:00a.m.

**(free, all-ages event! Invite a friend)**

**We will provide:**

One Wreath ring per family

Candles

Evergreen clippings

Some decorations

The symbolism behind the wreath

An Advent wreath blessing

**You are welcome to bring:**

Some clippings from your yard

Small bows or ribbon

Contemplative Advent Worship  
Sunday, December 3, 2023  
7:00p.m.



Does the busyness of the holiday season seem too much? Do you long for a moment of quiet, to enjoy the hope, peace, joy, and love that we celebrate during Advent. Come to our special contemplative worship service. Enjoy a time of familiar carols, prayer, reflection, and candle light.

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Please join us for our free  
*Community Lunch*  
Monday, December 4<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  
Jack Troxel*

*Daphne Frampton  
Barbara Knapp  
Weston Moss  
Todd Roy  
Dennis Ubriaco*

*John Garran  
Rosalind Magill  
Gina O'Connor  
Carol Spencer  
Fred Vitek*

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.**

*We express our deepest sympathy to Dot Oberding  
on the death of her husband, Bob on November 11th .*

**Cards of expression may be sent to Dot Oberding, P.O. Box 1994, Wellfleet, MA 02667  
A Celebration of Life was held on November 25<sup>th</sup>**

*“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not  
alone. Thanks be to God!”*

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

12/6 Nathan Graham  
12/11 Jordan Nye  
12/17 Sarah Porteus & Nancy Boyles  
12/24 Siri Lindberg  
12/27 David Lajoie  
12/28 Ava Currier & Jana Currier  
12/30 Brittany Souza



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

12/4 Frank & Suzanne Thomas

# Christmas Fair

## Saturday ~ December 9th

10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

Baked Goods, Christmas Cookie Stroll; Knit goods; Crafts; Jewelry; Unique Doll clothing; Hand painted stones; Soup & Sandwiches available \$10.00

We are in need of volunteers to assist during the fair and bakers to make cookies for the cookie stroll. Please let Nellie or Charlotte know if you are able to help.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

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### 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

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### 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)

## 2023 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ORDER FORM

### To The Church Office:

Please order the following flowers to be placed on the altar and narthex for Christmas Sunday. (*The prices listed below include delivery and set up by Bayberry Gardens.*)

<u>How Many</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Price each</u>
_____	6 ½ in. Poinsettias (5-7 flowers)	\$ 21.00
_____	7 in. Poinsettias (2 plants) (8 + flowers)	\$ 35.00
_____	6 in. Cyclamen	\$ 18.00
_____	6 ½ in. Christmas Cactus (In clay pot)	\$ 18.00

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

I will **take** my plant **after the 4PM Christmas Eve** service on **12/24/23**

OR  I will **leave** my plant to be given to a housebound person.

Attached is my check in the **total amount** of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Payable to:** First Congregational Church **Note:** "for Christmas Flowers"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders must be **received no later than Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**.

### Send to:

The First Congregational Church of Wellfleet, P.O. Box 1300, Wellfleet, MA 02667  
**(or)**

Place order form with check attached in the offering plate

# First Congregational Church of Wellfleet – December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA = Alcoholics Anonymous FMC= Financial Management Comm. Handicap Accessible	MS = Mustard Seed WHS = Wellfleet Historical Society				1	2 11am – Advent Wreath Building 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>3 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am Worship, Comm. 11:15am – Fellowship 7:00pm Contemplative Advent Worship	4 8-10am – MS  12:00-1:30pm – Community Luncheon 	5 8:00-11am – MS 9am-1pm - WHS 3-5:30pm - Living Water Acupuncture Clinic	6 9:00-2pm – MS  12:30pm – Advent Study Group  4:30pm - Mission & Outreach	7	8	9 10am-2pm- Craft Fair  4:00pm Choir rehearsal  7:00pm AA
<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am -Worship 11:15am – Fellowship 11:30am – Mem. Svc. Sue Sloan	11 8-10am – MS	12 8:00-11am – MS  4:30pm – Listening Session	13 9:00-2pm – MS 12:30pm – Advent Study Group 1:00pm – FMC	14	15	16 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am – Early Svc. 9am – Choir reh. 10:00am- Worship 11:15am – Fellowship 11:30am – Listening	18 8-10am – MS	19 8:00-11am – MS	20 9:00-2pm – MS  12:30pm – Advent Study Group	21 7:00pm – Longest Night Worship Svc.	22	23 Custodian cleans in morning 4:00pm Choir rehearsal 7:00pm AA
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 9am- Choir Reh. 10:00am Worship 11:15am – Fellowship 4:00pm – Worship  <hr/> <b>31 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b> 8:30am Early Svc. 10:00am Worship	<b>25 CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Office closed</b>	26 8:00-11am – MS  10:30am – Care Team	27 9:00-2pm – MS	28	29	30