



First Congregational Church

Parish Guide



Volume 78

No. 5

January 2016

Happy New Year!

As we embark on the beginning of a New Year, I want to thank all who have been serving in leadership positions. Many of you have been serving this church in very significant, yet often “unseen” ways, as much goes on *behind* the scenes. Thank you for your continued service and commitment!

I am eagerly looking forward to your Bicentennial Celebration – 200th Anniversary Gala event scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2016. We have a wonderful evening planned with a Bicentennial Program, musical entertainment, delicious food, and fellowship. I hope you will join us as we kick off the year long, Bicentennial Celebration! If you have not already returned your RSVP to the church office and purchased your tickets ~ please do so immediately! You don’t want to miss this event!!!

New Years, in general, is a time of transition celebrated around the world. With each passing year, people from different cultures and countries choose to leave the past behind in order to embrace the HOPE and new possibilities that each New Year brings. During times of transition, congregations are challenged to not lose sight of THE PRESENT MOMENT – even as they reflect and seek to learn from the past...and make plans for the future! This is especially true for a congregation that is celebrating its 200th Anniversary!

As you embark on the beginning of a New Year, I encourage you to take time to notice and name - what you appreciate about your life and your church family RIGHT NOW! In the months to come, may we become more aware of the gifts that God offers us....and strive to notice how God is working in and through the people and events of our daily lives.

The Transition Team has been meeting regularly with me to get prepared to engage those in leadership positions in reflection and dialogue in small groups around the emotions triggered by loss and grief, related to the departure of your former settled Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Marty Hall. As the first step, the Transition Team will be scheduling meetings with all church committees. Once this is completed, they will look to provide similar opportunities for other members of the congregation. Working through the emotions of grief is an important aspect of the work of the congregation during the interim time.

Looking ahead our hope is to hold an all-day leadership retreat on a Saturday in the late winter or early spring, to further assess and plan for the future.

Lastly, I want to inform the congregation that I will be taking study leave from January 24th – January 31st. I will be joining a group of female clergy from around the globe to focus on the influence that culture has on congregational strategy, while nurturing my call to ministry and attending to my own need for spiritual renewal. On January 24th, the Greater Fall River Area Council of Churches is sponsoring a Pulpit Exchange for member churches. The Deacons decided to invite an Intern from the Council of Churches to fill the Pulpit on January 24th and they will be arranging for Pulpit Supply on January 31st.

Yours, In Faith,
Pastor Debbie

Quotes to Ponder For The New Year....2016

No matter what form the dragon may take, it is of this mysterious passage past him, or into his jaws, that stories of any depth will always be concerned to tell.

- Flannery O'Connor

Daring to do what is right, not what fancy may tell you,
Valiantly grasping occasions and not cravenly
doubting—

Freedom comes only through deeds,
not through thoughts taking wing.

Faint not nor fear, but go out to the storm and the action,
trusting in God whose commandment you faithfully
follow;

freedom, exultant, will welcome your spirit with joy.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

(Stages on the Road to Freedom)

Blessing is at the end of the road. And that which is at the
end of the road influences everything that takes place
along the road. The end shapes the means. As Catherine
of Siena said, "All the way to heaven is heaven."

- Eugene Peterson

(A Long Obedience In the Same Direction)

If this is to be a Happy New Year, a year of usefulness, a
year in which we shall live to make this earth better, it is
because God will direct our pathway. How important
then, to feel our dependence upon Him!

- Matthew Simpson

Hope comes in little ways -
it only takes one shining star,
one faithful friend,
one wisp of inspiration,
one touch of creation's beauty,
one deep sip of love
to keep the illumination alive in us.

-Joyce Rupp

Press On To The Heavenly Goal

Not that I have already obtained this or have already
reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own,
because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do
not consider that I have made it my own; but this one
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining
forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for
the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let
those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and
if you think differently about anything, this too God will
reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have
attained. (Philippians 3:12-16)

Worship Schedule

Worship Schedule January 2016

January 3 – Service of Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Theme: Where is the Child?

January 10 – First Sunday after Epiphany -

The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15 -22

Theme: Affirmed by Love

***Celebrating the Baptism of Lendon James Brito*

January 17 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Theme: Extravagant Sign

January 24 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

Theme: Good News, Good Ways

**Guest Preacher - Fall River Council of Churches
Pulpit Exchange**

January 31 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

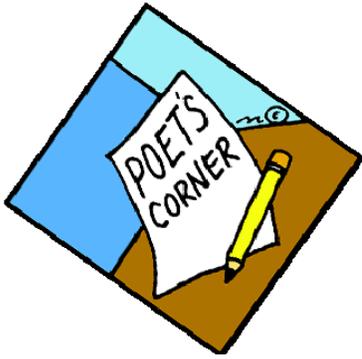
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Theme: Prophet on the Edge

Guest Preacher





UNEXPECTED

Even now we simply do not expect
to find a deity in a stable.
Somehow the setting is all wrong;
the swaddling clothes too plain,
the manger too common for the likes of a Savior,
the straw inelegant,
the animals, reeking and noisy,
the whole scene too ordinary for our taste.
And the cast of characters is no better.
With the possible exception of the kings,
who among them is fit for this night?
The shepherds? Certainly too crude,
the carpenter too rough,
the girl too young,
And the baby!

Whoever expected a baby?
Whoever expected the advent of God in a helpless child?
Had the Messiah arrived in the blazing light of the glory
of a legion of angels wielding golden swords,
the whole world could have been conquered for Christ
right then and there
and we in the church – to say nothing of the world! –
wouldn't have so much trouble today.
Even now we simply do not expect
To face the world armed with love.

Ann Weems, In: 'Kneeling in Bethlehem'
(The Westminster Press, Philadelphia), 1987.



We note with sadness the
passing of our friend:

David Elie
December 17, 2015



If We Have to Cancel the Worship Service (Due to Bad Weather)

On those winter Sunday mornings when we have extremely bad weather, causing apparent danger to those attempting to get to church, the decision whether to cancel the worship service will be made in consultation with Bea Whitney-Dean, our Senior Deacon, and Denise Ward, our Moderator.

If it is decided that worship must be cancelled, Jennifer Rego, our Church Secretary, will call the Church Office and remotely change the outgoing message on the answering machine to indicate that the service has been cancelled. She will also post this information to the FCC Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fccfallriver).

If at all possible, the decision whether to cancel the service will be made by 8:00 a.m. So you may call the Church Office any time after 8:00 a.m. to get accurate information.

If there is no message indicating the service has been cancelled, then you may assume that we will be holding the worship service –and will be happy to see you in church!

Living Memorials

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Throughout the year, our church is blessed to receive gifts and contributions to support the ministries and programs of the church. Many of these special gifts are given in memory of past members and friends in our Living Memorial Fund. In recognition of these gifts, and in tribute to those who have been stewards of our church's ministries in years past, it is our tradition to publicly share the names of those in whose memory these gifts have been given. The following names, to be shared during tonight's service, are those who have been remembered through special gifts to our church since the last reading of the Living Memorial on Thursday, April 2, 2014.

It is with tremendous gratitude that we remember these saints who have handed down, to us, the ministries of the First Congregational Church of Fall River.

New Memorials

Katherine Simon

Additions to Existing Memorials

<i>Clifton Berryman, Sr.</i>	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Robert Moe</i>
<i>Gertrude Berryman</i>	<i>Eben and Matilda "Tillie" Sawyer</i>
<i>Clifton Berryman, Jr.</i>	<i>Mr. James Ward</i>
<i>Lincoln & Josephine Brayton</i>	<i>Elmer J. Wilkinson</i>
<i>Mimi (Mildred) Hadley</i>	<i>Hadley B. Wilkinson</i>
<i>Mrs. Theresa A. Leonard</i>	<i>Phylis M. Wilkinson</i>
<i>Mary C. Medeiros</i>	<i>Marie C. Wood</i>



Memorial Poinsettias

Flowers represent God's creation, remind us of new life, enhance our worship, and express our feelings. At Christmas, we have the opportunity to remember our loved ones with poinsettias. Thank you to everyone for helping to make our Sanctuary more beautiful this Christmas season.

Poinsettias Were Given In Loving Memory Of ...

<i>Clifton Berryman, Sr.</i>	<i>Isabel MacNaught</i>	<i>Ruth McQuesten Twaddle</i>
<i>Gertrude Berryman</i>	<i>Russell L. McIlwaine</i>	<i>Arthur Eastman Twaddle</i>
<i>Clifton Berryman, Jr.</i>	<i>Marie Jeanne McNerney</i>	<i>James Ward</i>
<i>Mrs. Josephine Brayton</i>	<i>Mary C. Medeiros</i>	<i>Louise & Sumner J. Waring, Sr.</i>
<i>Mr. Lincoln Davol Brayton</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. George C. Moberger</i>	<i>Sumner J. Waring, Jr.</i>
<i>Barbara & Robert Chamberlain</i>	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Robert H. Moe</i>	<i>David F. Westgate</i>
<i>Mr. George B. J. Cipolletti</i>	<i>Thomas and Katherine Nickerson</i>	<i>Muriel & Ray Westgate</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Deslauriers</i>	<i>Theresa Patenaude</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. George Lester Wilcox</i>
<i>Eva & Fred Dreyer</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Santos</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. Richard F. Wilcox, Sr.</i>
<i>Lena Dreyer</i>	<i>Silveiro Santos</i>	
<i>Edith and Nicholas Fitton</i>	<i>Henry E. Smith</i>	
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Lanyon</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Lester H. Sowle</i>	
<i>Leslie E. Lanyon</i>	<i>Ethel & Walter Stapelfeld</i>	
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Chester Leonard</i>	<i>Sharon F. Stapelfeld</i>	
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Lilley</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. James Thornton</i>	



Sunday School News

by Bonnie Braga, Church School Superintendent

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!!

Thanks to all of our families for bringing delicious food to our Christmas Potluck luncheon! Thanks to Judy Conrad for sharing her musical talents and to Pastor Debbie for allowing the children to take over the whole service for the Children's Christmas Service!!

Thanks to all of our children for a great job with the skit and music!! And, to Jackie and Sue's classes for their poem. Special thanks to our Sunday school teachers and the Religious Education committee for all of their efforts and hard work too!

Thanks also go to the children who helped light up and decorate our Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall and to Jackie Donovan for providing the Poinsettia centerpieces.

Best Wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!



Roller Skating Event
Forrest's Family Fun Center, 1 Lawton Ave,
Taunton

Sunday – January 17th, 2016

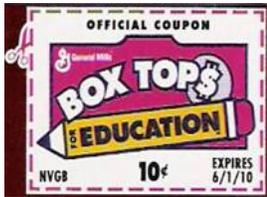
Attention all children, teens and families!
Join us for a Family Fun Center in Taunton.
Skating will be free for the children and teens;
parents and friends are \$5. Rentals are \$4 per
person – or you may bring your own.

RSVP to Bonnie at 508-667-5093
or to Jenn at 508-672-5862



Parish Guide
Deadline:
Third Monday of the month!

Weekly Bulletin Deadline:
Tuesday of the week prior to the Sunday you want the information published.



Box Tops for Education

Ever see something like this on top of your (General Mills) cereal or (Kleenex) tissue box? You can even find them on rolls of refrigerated (Pillsbury) cookie dough and bread. When you come across one, please consider cutting it out and giving it to a child you know whose school participates in the program.

Don't know of any? Bring them to church with you and give them to Jennifer in the church office – she will make sure they get to one of the participating schools.

If you would like to learn more about this program, please visit www.boxtops4education.com.



Looking to make a difference in the life of a child?

The Family Service Association's Big Friends Little

Friends program is currently looking for mentors ("big friends") to be matched up with a currently long waiting list of "little friends".

For more information, please contact:

Ramona Turcotte, Program Coordinator
 508-678-7542 Ext 3244



Food Drive

Please continue to support our ongoing food drive. There is a collection box in the Narthex and when it's full, the food is sent to the Fall River Community Food Pantry.

Some much needed items are:

- * Canned Juices
- * Canned Tomato Sauce
- * Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- * Nuts
- * Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- * Dried Fruits
- * Granola Bars
- * Graham Crackers
- * Crackers
- * Tuna
- * Peanut Butter
- * Canned Beans
- * Canned Soups, Stews, and Chili
- * Nutritious Breakfast Cereals
- * Whole Wheat Pasta
- * Brown Rice
- * Canned Fruits
- * Canned Vegetables

Coat and Warm Clothing Drive

We are having a warm winter clothing and coat drive. All donations may be brought to our church and will be delivered to St. Luke's Church where they have a thrift shop. Your support is greatly appreciated. Any questions please contact Sandra Wood.



Congratulations and Best Wishes

We know these lists may be incomplete, so we ask that anyone whose name is not included be sure to call the Church Office with the necessary information.

- 4 Patricia and Donald Snell
- 7 Brenda and John Oliveira



Anniversaries this Month

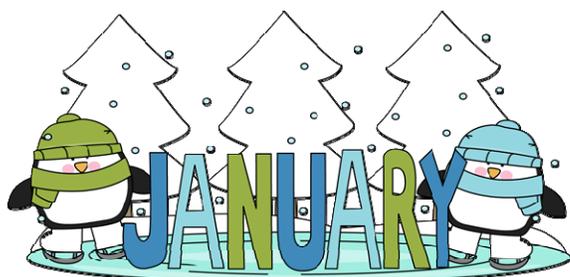


- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Isabella Thro | 25 | Curtis Hockert-Lotz |
| 3 | Jacob Jersky | 26 | Callie Pereira |
| 4 | Jakob Botelho | 27 | Michael Ward |
| | Miriam Harrison | 30 | Benjamin Raposa |
| 5 | Maggie Donovan | | Anne Smith |
| 6 | Ken Lanyon | 31 | Mason Ward |
| | Kimberly Pavao | | |
| 7 | Claude Richards | | |
| 8 | Rev. Weldon Palmer | | |
| 9 | Joshua Hockert-Lotz | | |
| 11 | Michael Farinha | | |
| | Mary Hadley | | |
| | Carol Viveiros | | |
| 12 | Elizabeth Bright | | |
| 15 | Diane Furtado | | |
| 16 | Ryan Martin | | |
| 17 | Christopher Sadlers | | |
| | Mariah Moton | | |
| 18 | Fonda McKnight | | |
| 19 | Ryan Dube | | |
| | Mark Palmer | | |
| 20 | Vincent Karppinen | | |
| 21 | Nicholas Viveiros | | |
| 22 | Dawn Cordeiro | | |
| | Steve St. Laurent | | |
| 23 | Andrea Richard | | |
| | Christopher Roderiques | | |
| 24 | William Butler | | |
| | James "Jay" Hall | | |



First Congregational Church
21 June Street
Fall River, MA 02720

Prepared especially for ...



Moving??? Please don't forget to notify the church office...

January
2016

If you no longer wish to receive the *Parish Guide*, please let Jennifer in the Church Office know by calling her at (508) 672-5862 or via email at fccfallriver@verizon.net



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First Congregational Church

**Sunday Worship
and
Church School
10:00 a.m.**

The Staff

Rev. Debbie L. Cipolletti,
Interim Senior Minister
Paul Anderson, Sexton

Bonnie Braga, Church School Superintendent
Judith Conrad, Music Minister
Cheryl Foley, Bookkeeper
Jennifer Rego, Secretary
Doris Thornton, Health Minister

Telephone: (508) 672-5862
Fax: (508) 672-2341
Email Address: fccfallriver@verizon.net
Website Address: www.fccfallriver.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/fccfallriver
Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube: [fccfallriver](https://www.instagram.com/fccfallriver)
Office Hours: Monday– Thursday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Sunday
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

