

PURPOSE
STATEMENT

"We are disciples of Jesus Christ committed to making a difference in the community and in the world through service and invitational outreach."



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church, Chatham

From the Pastor

January

Volume 27, Issue 1

Dear Friends—

One of my favorite hymns begins "Fresh Every Morning is Thy love." It speaks of the ways in which the love of God is never of the past or far from us each day. Whenever we pray or go to join in worship, we know that God's love is renewed in our lives and our world.

In the same spirit, we speak in the Christian community of being "born again." We understand this to mean that God renews us when we acknowledge the role of faith in our lives. We get a fresh start, spiritually, when we acknowledge and accept the power of our spirits in belief.

Another "fresh start" in our lives comes every January 1st. The new year brings new opportunities for sharing the love of Christ in our families, our Church, and our communities. This is as true for institutions as for us as individuals.

Our congregation has an opportunity every year to renew itself in ministry and mission. We are open, welcoming, and growing in spirit and service. January brings a new spirit to our service, to each other, and

the whole lower Cape community.

Let us commit ourselves to this vision of fresh and vital ministry. We are an older Church with a rich heritage, but we are also called by God to begin each year the work of discipleship in the truest sense.

May God bless us every one as we renew our "fresh spirits" in the days ahead! Thom

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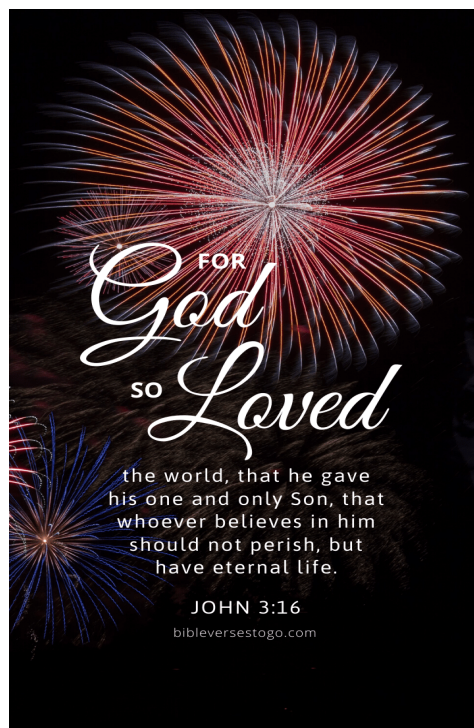
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Thank you all of the wonderful congregation of First United Methodist Church for the lovely gift card for the Wild Goose Tavern! I love the gift, the thoughtfulness, and you. Joyce

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10AM IN THE SANCTUARY:
COFFEE HOUR IS HELD WITH MINDFUL FOOD HANDLING.
MASK WEARING FOR THOSE NOT VACCINATED.

“Resolutely a New Year”

After a wonderful and blessed Christmas season, we greet the New Year with thoughts of the expected promises we usually make to ourselves about losing weight, eating healthier food, watching less television, exercising, being kinder—all the things we should have been doing this past year, but didn’t because when the desire to change becomes a “resolution,” it becomes even more difficult to achieve.

That’s why the Apostle Paul said in Romans 7:15, “What I want to do, that I don’t do; but what I hate, that I do.” Our human (fallen) nature is the cause of our inability to do what is right. Instead of trying to do anything by ourselves, Paul tells us to give the problem to God and let him help us. God knows what we want and need, and he and the Holy Spirit are there to guide us through.

It is a good thing to want improvements in our lives and God knows which improvements will glorify him most and be best for us. Perceived failures may or may not be failures in the eyes of God. Our relationship with him is on-going, so there is no stopping or starting based on our performance. Let’s resolutely welcome a new year of reliance upon God, listening to his voice and becoming more Christ-like throughout 2023.

by Rachel Nickerson Luna

GODLY PLAY—Angel Lore II

We cannot be sure where angelic tradition began on earth, but the earliest writings of Sumeria, Egypt, Persia, and India recognized winged beings or messengers of the gods. On a Sumerian stele (Stone Column) a winged being who inhabits the 7 heavens is depicted pouring “the water of life” into a king’s cup. The study of angels is known as angelology. Over the centuries many manuscripts have been written, and many exhaustive works on angelic hierarchies and scholarly traditions have been compiled, often copied or translated from earlier manuscripts.

As we look at sources of angel lore, we must understand that much of the material was written by mystics, prophets, lawgivers, poets, and chroniclers. In early Christianity, for instance, there were numerous sources of angelic lore that once carried the same weight of authority as the current books of the Bible; however, this information slipped into oblivion when these texts were left out of the Old Testament.

The Bible mentioned angels frequently but with no detail or background provided, except in two or three instances. Gabriel and Michael are both mentioned by name in the Old Testament, and Raphael appears in the book of Tobit or Tobias. Tobit is a book in the Old Testament of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Bibles but does not appear in the Hebrew Bible and is placed with the Apocrypha in Protestant versions. Some angels in the Old Testament are described as “men in white” because they are seen to be clothed in white linen garments. White linen was a symbol of immortality to the ancients.

Why not invite an angel into your life!
Blessings, Pastor Sonny

DUAL CONCERTO CONCERT

Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 307 Main St., S. Yarmouth

January 28, 2023 - 7:00 PM

January 29, 2023 - 3:00 PM

James Rosenblum will perform *Beethoven’s Third Piano Concerto* with Ana Glig accompanying on a 2nd piano. Ana will perform *Bach’s Concerto in D minor* with James accompanying.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

01-11 Allan Brier
01-13 Ruth Cooling

01-11 Nancy & Roy
Bischoff

Serving In The Military

Please keep in your prayers all those serving in the military, especially the following members associated with our church:

- Lt. Forrest A. Bogue, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA, son of Amy Bogue and grandson of Olive Bogue.
- Petty Officer 3rd Class, USN, Noah Firmin, son of Michael and Anita Firmin, who is stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.
- Pvt. Jacob Stewart, grandson of Elaine & Roger Trexler, is at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

JANUARY 2023 CHURCH CALENDAR

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
1 10—WORSHIP EPIPHANY SUNDAY	2	3 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 10:30—FAITH STUDY	4 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	5 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN 5-7 LBGTQ ADULT GROUP	6 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN 6-8 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE RALLY	7 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN
8 10—WORSHIP BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9	10 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 10:30—FAITH STUDY	11 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN 5:30 FINANCE/ TRUSTEES	12 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	13 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	14 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN
15 10—WORSHIP	16 THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTH- DAY OBSERVANCE	17 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 10:30—FAITH STUDY	18 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	19 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	20 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	21 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN
22 10—WORSHIP	23 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY	24 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 10:30—FAITH STUDY	25 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	26 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	27 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN	28 11-2 THRIFT SHOP OPEN
29 10—WORSHIP	30	31 8:30—OSTEO EXERCISE 10:30—FAITH STUDY				

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE, JANUARY 2023

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Elev. Operators</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Coffee Hour Hosts</u>
January 1 Communion	Diane Kennedy	Dave Mallows	Mike Firmin	Karen Goggins	-----
January 8	Jan Lovewell	Al Brier	Bruce Wynn	Jay Thompson	Diane Kennedy & Robin Rank
January 15	Dave Mallows	Myron Kellberg	Al Brier	Jan Lovewell	Pot Luke Luncheon
January 22	Cathy Bogue	Bruce Wynn	Jay Thompson	Keith Bradley	Norma Avellar & Toni Wordell
January 29	Bonnie Freitas	Mike Firmin	Dave Mallows	Robin Rank	Barb Nickerson & Phyllis Power

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