

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

December 2021 Volume 25, Issue 12

Dear Friends—

A Little Christmas History

Do you resonate to the date December 25, 221? Most of us really can't even imagine that far back. But, in that year/date a leading Church figure announced that this was the "most likely" date of Jesus birth. There are no records to confirm that and even then, the Christian Church took it very lightly. Jesus was considered to be a martyr and martyrs' celebration dates were on the day of their death, not birth.

For thousands of years, the Christian community at large pretty much ignored December 25 all the way up until the nineteenth century. Even then, it was nothing like Christmas today. There were quiet family celebrations in the home and the exchange of home-made clothes or baked goods. Gradually, families began to share with each other until it became a community-wide event.

Sadly, in our world today, with few exceptions, the most likely Christmas conversations will be about whether or not Aunt Mildred liked the expensive coat we bought for her which finally put us over our credit card limit!

But, we can change that in

our own little world. Reading the birth story in our Bible (Matthew 1:18 and following, Luke 2:1-20, or John 1:1-14) is a good place to start. Having a family prayer around the Christmas Tree can be very meaningful. Even inviting someone to share your Christmas dinner if they would otherwise be alone is spreading your true Christmas spirit.

Going to Church can be especially wonderful. We will have our Christmas Eve celebration in Church and online at 4:00PM on Christmas eve. You are invited to this hour of lessons and carols.

So, if we really want to see past the tinsel and lights, this is the time to put the spirit of Christ back in the season. God bless us every one!

Thom



Inside this Issue	Page
Worship Services update	2
Choir; Kitchen; Missions; Food Bank; First Night	
"The Environment and Us" by Suzanna Nickerson	3
Seacoast District; "Blown by God. . ."	
"Godly Play" by Rev. Sonny	4
Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Staff Contacts	
December Church Calendar; Greeters' Schedule	5

First United Methodist Church
569 Main Street
Mail: 16 Cross Street
Chatham, MA 02633

Pastor Thom
(Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Gallen)
Cell: 508.209.4551
tjgjt@hotmail.com

Joyce Lance, Admin. Assistant and *The Messenger* Editor
Office Phone: 508-945-0474
Email: office@chathammethodist.org

Eric P. Williams,
Music Director/Organist
ERSing224@aol.com

Jeanne Kuzirian, Emerita
Music Director/Organist

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 10AM**THOSE NOT VACCINATED MUST WEAR MASKS****COFFEE HOUR IS HELD WITH MINDFUL FOOD HANDLING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING**

CHOIR QUESTIONNAIRE—If you are interested in singing in First United Methodist Church's Choir, there are questionnaires at the back of the sanctuary on the Ushers table that you may fill out and put in the offering plate or return to the office or the organist. You may also pick one up in the church office. Eric will give you a call after he receives your completed questionnaire.

KITCHEN RENOVATION UPDATE

We thought you might like to have an update on what's happening in the kitchen.

The ceiling tiles have been updated and replaced with tiles that are fire resistant and meet fire codes for commercial kitchen. The metal hangers the tiles rest on have been painted to match the tiles.

New countertops are on order along with new, stainless sinks and faucets. Their installation should be completed soon.

Also, kitchen windows have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in mid-December. Installation will follow shortly thereafter.

New flooring has been ordered, but is currently out-of-stock. The projected delivery is not until the middle of January. Like a lot of things, it's probably stuck on a ship in the Pacific Ocean! The Trustees have decided to extend the new flooring into the freezer room and small bathroom off the kitchen to keep everything uniform.

Painting of the kitchen will proceed as the other work is completed and at the availability of our painter. We hopefully expect the kitchen renovation project to be complete by the end of January 2022.

The Trustees' Kitchen Renovation Team

MISSIONS

Do you have a favorite charity or mission project you would like to see our church support? The Missions Committee would like some suggestions from our congregants as to where they would like to see their mission donations go. Recent recipients include Lower Cape Outreach, Red Cloud Indian School, Mountains of Hope in Haiti, and UMCOR.

Feel free to let me know your choices by email (doctorelaine88@gmail.com) or phone or text (443-255-0850), let Joyce in the church office know, or put your choice(s) in the offering plate. Elaine Trexler

Monomoy Community Services needs our help. In the past year and a half, MCS has completed some of the most intense and exhaustive support efforts of our nearly 50-year history working with children and families in the

Town of Chatham. The pandemic's impact on our community redefined what MCS needed to prioritize, administer and accomplish. They brought *Coronavirus Impact Funds* and other relief donations to hundreds of local residents; organized community-based meals; completed regular household check-ins with more than 100 struggling local families; reopened childcare for working families; and, with the help of donors, the *Chatham Children's Fund* made sure local kids and teens had at least a little Christmas.

MCS needs our help more than ever to rebuild. You can give to them directly, 166 Depot Road, Chatham 02633 (508.945.1501); text them at monomoy.org; visit them in person or on Instagram.

Submitted by Keith Bradley: Ellen Hary Hillman visited a food bank recently and spoke to those getting food—here's some of what she learned:

1. They rarely use *Kraft Mac and Cheese*—it needs milk and butter, hard to get from a food bank.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure as kids need it for cereal.
3. It's hard to eat all the canned veggies and soup unless it's a pop-top or a can opener is included.
4. Oil is a luxury but needed for *Rice a-Roni*, which they get a lot of.
5. Spices, salt and pepper would be a real gift.
6. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
7. Sugar and flour are treats.
8. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing is easy for some.
9. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
10. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but not usually sandwich bread.
11. Cake mix and frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
12. Dishwashing detergent is always appreciated.
13. Women cry over feminine hygiene products.
14. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing!

FIRST NIGHT

Our church has been asked to once again participate in our town's First Night activities. As in the past few years, we will prepare food for those attending these events. The food will be takeaway only! Our picnic tables will remain outside and should come in handy.

Diane Kennedy and Toni Wordell are assembling a team to prepare and sell the food. Volunteers would be greatly welcome. Contact Diane, 508.294.5654 or foxhillherbs@gmail.com; or Toni, 508.789.7100 or takwordell@comcast.net.

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.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND US

Our world is fraught with toxic chemicals being thrown at us right and left. Most of these toxic chemicals are unnecessary and can contaminate not only our natural habitat but could pollute our water supply if we are not careful going forward.

The health of our sole source Aquifer is dependent on our daily behavior. We should keep in mind not only the quantity of water that we use, but also what we put down our drains, on our yard and gardens, and in the ground when we clean our homes, gardens, cars, decks, windows, etc.

Bon Ami, Vinegar, Baking Soda, and 20 Mule Team Borax

Our laws and our government do not protect us in the way we would like them to. Our health is up to us, and we ourselves have to go the extra mile to protect ourselves. Many products on the shelves of our shops and markets can hurt us and cause us harm. Pesticides, herbicides, and cleaning supplies contain harsh chemicals that can pollute our world and make us sick. The alternatives named above are not new and improved but the same old, same old that our mothers and grandmothers used. They still hold up as safe and effective.

“Bon Ami” is made from potato starch, is still available without plastic packaging, and still cleans pots and pans, sinks, and toilets. It is amazing and “still doesn’t scratch”.

Baking soda can be used in a similar fashion. It disinfects as well as being a good scrub. It can be used to absorb odors. It can be added to a burnt pot with vinegar, simmered for several minutes, and the burnt food will lift away. It will polish the coffee stains from your coffee cup and teeth and makes a great substitute for toothpaste; it balances the PH in your mouth and makes a great mouthwash. I add a bit of backing soda to the water when I use my Water Pic. Follow this with a vinegar and water rinse to clean the baking soda off the internal workings of the Water Pic. You can wash your hair with baking soda (saving a ton of money), it can be added to your wash cycle as a freshener or remove moisture from closets and under sink cabinets and, of course, it can be used for baking soda biscuits.

“20 Mule Team Borax” is a wonderful natural cleaner, but it can irritate your skin. I use it for my laundry. For years I used it with my liquid detergent as a booster, but the more I learned about the ill effects of plastic, I left my liquid laundry detergent behind. There

are two products I purchase at Green Road Refillable’s, 2655 Main Street, #22 Foster Square Plaza, Brewster—774.216.1409. They have one laundry detergent that is in a paper container; the actual detergent is a sheet of paper perforated to allow you to tear a portion of the sheet off and place it in your washing machine. They also have detergent pods that are small gelatin pods filled with detergent—your purchase of them comes with a small cloth bag; use one or two for a laundry load.

Vinegar can be a wonderful cleaner. I have only used the distilled white vinegar for those purposes. It seems to be less sugary and a lot less expensive than cider vinegar. Distilled white vinegar will cut through soap; I have often used it when I have put too much soap in a laundry load or washed the floor and had trouble getting the soap off. (*I use it in my laundry because it gets rid of unwanted odors— Ed.*) I’ve bought it at Whole Foods in Hyannis; instead of a plastic container, it can be gotten in a glass container at a slightly higher price.

We are responsible for what ends up in our Aquifer. Chemicals such as Round Up and neonicotinoids, fertilizers and many other chemicals are harmful to us and to animals, yet we are free to manufacture them, sell them, and use them, even though they will cause us harm. Another good example is common bleach. It does a wonderful job taking out stains but is extremely toxic for children, adults, and animals. It can cause many lung problems. If we get a horrible stain that will not come out with soap, you can use Oxiclean and a bit of scrubbing. If you use boiling water in a bucket or a big pan, Oxiclean is quite miraculous.

It is up to us to gather information, listen to others, take experience from our past, and try to choose products that will not hurt us or wildlife.

Until next time, Merry Christmas!

Suzanna Nickerson, 774.563.0775.





- 1650—Settlers making bayberry candles. The bayberry candle burned to the socket would bestow good luck and fortune to the family. Apples, herbs, cones, and greens were used in decorating.
- 1747—A pyramid wood structure was made and covered with greens and apples and adorned with candles.
- 1760—Williamsburg: Decorated with greens, fruits, and the pineapple (welcome sign), and the pomegranate, which denoted wealth in the family. During this time period, a candle tea was given; candles were made of bees' wax and dressed with a red crêpe bow. This was considered Christ's Guiding Light.
- 1843—The Christmas Tree was introduced, fir as well as the feather tree.
- 1900-1930—By this time the Christmas Tree took hold as well as different types of decorations. This is now a universal part of the American Christmas Holiday Season. First artificial tree was developed from the ever popular toilet brush company.
- 1950 to present day—More than the eye can behold. From simple greens and berries to the glitz and glitter of the times. But always remember what the true meaning of Christmas is.

Rhyme from long ago: Holly and Ivy,
Box and Bay,
Put in the Church,
On Christmas Day. (circa 1700)

If you have love in your mind and in your heart,
you will have Christmas with you all the time.

Christmas Blessings, Rev. Dr. Frank (Sonny) Gada



BLOWN BY GOD TOWARD NEWNESS

The news is that God's wind is blowing,
it may be a breeze that
cools and comforts.
It may be a gust that
summons you to notice.
It may be a storm that blows you where
you have never been before.
Whatever the wind is in your life,
pay attention to it . . .
and the blessing of God—Father, Son, and
Spirit—will abide with you always.

From Rev. Rick McKinley, Director of Congregational Development. Written by Walter Brueggemann, *Prayers for a Privileged People*, Abingdon Press Nashville ©2008, pg. 183.



**GODLY PLAY—A Message from Rev. Sonny
TIME-LINE CHRISTMAS**

Time Line—Christmas begins. Since the beginning, Christmas is celebrated in many lands and with many traditions. We take most of our Christmas customs for granted, but most of them are quite old and have been passed from country to country, generation to generation. A great many of them stem from a true religious beginning even though it may be different from what we, today, think of as religion. Let's take a journey through time and look at how Christmas has brightened our lives.

The Beginning—Luke 2: The Birth of Jesus.
The First Christmas Crèche introduced by St. Francis of Assisi 1232.

1607—Jamestown Colonies' first Christmas—food, drink and merriment with greens, berries and cones.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
12-01 Dona Connor	12-01 Kim & Peter Farber
12-18 Dick Woolbert	12-06 Claire & Jay Thompson
12-25 Miles Farber	12-11 Sue Kim & Hank Heo

STAFF CONTACTS

Church Location: 569 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633
Mail address: 16 Cross Street, Chatham, MA 02633

Thom Gallen, Pastor
 Cell: 508.209.4551
 E-mail: tjgjt@hotmail.com

Joyce Miriam Lance, Administrative Assistant
 Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30 - 1:00
 Telephone: 508-945-0474
 Email: office@chathammethodist.org

Eric Williams, Music Director/Organist
ERSing224@aol.com
 516.972.4903

Jeanne Kuzirian, Emerita Music Director/Organist

DECEMBER 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
			1	2 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10am Thrift Shop Opens	3 10am Thrift Shop Open	4 10am Thrift Shop Opens
5 10am Communion Worship	6	7 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10:30am Study Group	8 5:30pm Finance and Trustees	9 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10am Thrift Shop Opens	10 10am Thrift Shop Open	11 10am Thrift Shop Opens
12 10am Worship	13	14 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10:30am Study Group	15	16 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10am Thrift Shop Opens	17 10am Thrift Shop Open	18 10am Thrift Shop Opens
19 10am Worship	20	21 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10:30am Study Group	22	23 10am Thrift Shop Open	24 Thrift Shop Closed Christmas Eve Service at 4PM, in the Sanctuary	25 CHRISTMAS 
26 10am Worship	27	28 8:30am Osteo Exercise 10:30am Study	29	30 10am Thrift Shop Open	31 NEW YEARS EVE 10am Thrift Shop Open— YES!	JAN 1 NEW YEARS DAY 10am Thrift Shop Open— YES!

GREETERS SCHEDULE REMAINDER OF 2021 AND

FIRST QUARTER 2022

12-5—Ginger and David Murray
12-12—Judy Catandella and Robin Rank
12-19—Mike Firmin and Elaine Trexler
12-26—Al Brier and Diane Kennedy

1-2—Mae Morrison and Robin Rank
1-9—Judy Catandella and Bonnie Freitas
1-16—Cathy Bogue and Elaine Trexler
1-23—Jan Lovewell and David Mallowes
1-30—Marilyn and Ken Johnson

2-6—Pat Hagel and Lee Sneden
2-13—Fran and Bruce Wynn
2-20—Jay and Claire Thompson
2-27—Myron Kellberg and Ruth Norman

3-6—Keith Bradley and Toni Wordell
3-13—Barbara Nickerson and Phyllis Power
3-20—Mike Firmin and Deb Smith
3-27—Ginger and David Murray

First United Methodist Church
16 Cross Street
Chatham, MA 02633