

First Church in Pembroke

December 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

December 3rd -7:30pm Deacons Meeting

December 7th – 8-10am Pancake Breakfast

December 8th -11:15am Stephen Ministries Meeting; 12:00 Missions

December 10th-7:30pm Trustees Meeting

December 14th- 9am Breakfast with Santa (CNK)

December 17th –7:30pm Church Council Meeting

December 20th -January Newsletter Deadline

December 24th-7pm Christmas Eve Service

December 24th –December 27th (office closed)

December 28th – 11am Reading of The Pembroke Resolves

Recurring Event

Every Thursday
Creative Workshop-7pm

Choir Practice – 7:30pm

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Thrift Shop 11am -3pm

Pastor's Page

It's hard to imagine that I've already been here for two months. The times just seems to fly by. My commute from the Cape has actually been a time of respite. The drives have been a time of pure joy seeing the changing of the trees and bushes along the way. But we all know that the dreaded winter is coming. I might feel differently in February. However, the warmth that my wife and I have felt coming here has been awesome, even in the midst of this transitional time in the life of the church.

In case you don't know this Sunday we start a new church year with the beginning of advent. Each week will have a traditional theme. So over the next four weeks I will be preaching on hope, peace, joy, and love. The Sunday services will be filled with hymns that focus on the preparation of the up-and-coming birth of our Lord. Advent is a time which can be best described as a time of great expectations as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our living God.

My hope is as a pastor is of course we will always prepare, and that means spending time tending our hearts in the right direction. It is just like practicing for an athletic event or musical presentation. We simply just have to do our homework. It might look like spending a little quiet time each day focusing on those things that were grateful for. It could be making a commitment to attend church every Sunday, it also could be doing some potentially additional volunteer work to help out those who are in need. But the bottom line is Christmas is coming whether you're prepared for it or not.

My hope is that through worshiping together over the next four weeks we will experience a deeper sense of God in our presence. After all who can't use a little more hope, peace, joy and love in their life. If in fact those elements aren't increasing in your life during the time of advent perhaps your praying to the wrong God.

On a different note I understand there are some children or young adults that would like to go through confirmation process. I would be glad to facilitate that. If you have children who are at least in seventh grade please contact Francine or the church office and we will start confirmation class as soon as we can agree upon a time to meet.

I honestly feel very humbled by my call here to serve in Pembroke. By the way a "call" is a very real thing! My hope is that all the leadership in this church feel the same call. What we do as a symbol of hope in this community is of paramount importance.

Enjoy the blessings that Advent brings,

Rev. Fred

Because of the recent change of church membership and natural attrition on committees, there are some vacancies on some of the church committees. Church Council is hoping to replace some of those recently vacated and soon-to-be vacated positions. Please note that Council is not expanding the committees to the maximum stated number on each committee, but rather only fill those recently vacated positions. Committee work is a wonderful way to serve the church while enjoying your First Church Family. If you are interested in volunteering to help on a committee please contact a Church Council member. Jim Lapham, Margery Baumler, Burt Palmer, Linda Peterson, Jay Hodge, Nancy Karstunen, Jane Hodge, Freda Burke, Francine Palmer, Sara Davis, Lori Cahill, Don McLellan, Judy Graham.

Deacons

Greetings from the Deacons!

We are happy to report that Rev. Fred Meade will be leading us in worship throughout the Advent and Christmas season. We pray that this time will help us all to become even more aware of and grateful for the "Reason for the Season" and that it is a holy time for each of us. There will be a sign up sheet available for those who would like to light a candle on the Advent Wreath during the Sunday services in Advent. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7 pm during which we will have a Christmas Crèche. This is different from the pageant of previous years and will involve people of all ages. We will also be lighting the final candle of the Advent Wreath, the Christ candle, at this service. It should be a meaningful time of worship and joy. During our Communion service it has been decided to move communion to an earlier point in the service. This will allow the children to take communion before leaving for Sunday School thus allowing them to continue their CE activities without having to stop to return to church. In news from the UCC, the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC has merged with those of Connecticut and Rhode Island to form the Southern New England Conference. We pray that everyone has a blessed and joyous Christmas season.

First Church is again hosting a Community Pancake Breakfast on the FIRST Saturday of the month from September – June from 8-10am in the church Fellowship Hall. Drop by as you head off to those sports events, on your way to do errands or to just have a relaxing start to your weekend and join us for Pancakes, Sausage, Juice and Coffee! Short Stack (2 pancakes & 2 sausages) \$3.00 and Super Stack (4 pancakes & 4 sausages) \$5.00. A great way to start your day – and you don't have to cook! Tickets available at the door.

See You December 7th!!!

Trustees

The trustees met on November 29, 2019, with the following reported:

Alan C updated the trustees on the church finances nothing new to report. After 20 years Alan will be retiring on December 31, 2019, as First Church in Pembroke's treasure, we all want to say thank you, Alan, for all that you have done for us enjoy your retirement.

Pending approval of the Diaconate, Pastor Meade will be extending his time with us. He will be working with Kristen to streamline the process. Pastor Meade also mentioned there are 35 open pastor positions in New England at this time.

Trustee's & Pastor Meade had a discussion about the governing body of First Church in Pembroke there seems to be some confusion regarding that. Trustees and Pastor Meade concluded that the Council is the governing body of First Church in Pembroke.

QuickBooks is about 2/3 finished Burt will meet with Alan, the outgoing treasurer, to transfer the remaining files to First Church in Pembroke.

CNK issues were discussed and are being completed.

Parsonage work is slowly being completed will update more next time.

Church projects: ceiling painting, updating keys, CPC deed restriction, church sign, snow plowing, ongoing.

Event Committee reported income of \$3191.81 from the Holiday Fair. Thank you all who help make the Faire a great success.

Trustees are looking at increasing pancake breakfast by \$1.00 this will be decided next month if prices increase this will take effect January 2020.

Budget to remain the same as last year, pending the outcome of pledge for 2020. Trustees will review all costs associated with running the church to see where we can save some money.

Consideration of replacing the fire alarm system to be discussed.

The full minutes are available in the church office Trustees to meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. With the holidays December's scheduled has changed we will be meeting Tuesday, December 10th at 7:30pm.

Missions

On November 11th, Veteran's Day, the Pembroke Military Support Group received the \$100 donation from the congregation of First Church. On Tuesday they were given the items collected from our Military Basket to send to our Military personnel as part of a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday from all of us at First Church. Of Course the best thing sent was our signed Holiday cards and the cards made by our small group of Sunday school children. Blessings to all for your kindness, support and caring for our Military.

December is the month that the Missions Committee also asks for your help to fill our "zip baggies"! Our "Mickey Mouse" clothes line has been set up. We are collecting leggings, sweats, and stretch pants for boys and girls in the Pembroke area. The collection which we planned to have completed by 12/14 will then be given to the Pembroke Community Group to help needed children of Pembroke and the surrounding areas.

At the end of December is the Veterans of The Cross Program. Last year we read the story "The Light is Surely Coming" to the children and the congregation. The color/story booklets were given to First Church by the United Church of Christ. It was a wonderful story time and everyone enjoyed it. This year to help support the Veterans of The Cross, the Missions Committee will be offering Christmas ornaments to purchase. All proceeds will go to help with this worthy cause.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God. 1 John 3:1

Wishing everyone a blessed Merry Christmas

Blessings from the Missions Committee

Search

As you all are aware of Stewardship Sunday was November 24th a letter was sent asking the congregation to consider pledging a little more than they did last year and letting them know that in the last 6 weeks, pledges have decreased by \$14,00.00. This equals a 17% drop in pledges. First Church in Pembroke can no longer afford to pay a full-time pastor because of the decrease, in pledges. Our focus now is hiring a part-time pastor we have received two profiles from UCC since August. One of the candidates was contacted to inform them that we are now looking at hiring a part-time pastor with some benefits depending on the hours this does not seem to be a problem which is a good thing. As soon as we have more information, we will share it with the congregation.

Stewardship

Our fall Stewardship campaign has just ended. As of this writing, we do not have the figures to report but will do so next month. Although the formal pledging time is past please remember that it is never a bad time to be a Steward of First Church. Your contributions of "Time, Talent, and Treasure" are always needed and always greatly appreciated. Many thanks to all who have made our church a priority this year and in the year to come. As good Stewards we will all continue to work together to support, strengthen, and grow our church in membership and in ministry. If you have already submitted your pledge we thank you! If you have not done so, the pledge cards are available in the pews and in the office. First Church needs your support!

Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

First Church Pembroke – December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>10am Sunday Service First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:30-6 Brownies</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11 – 3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11-3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>4-5:30 Brownies 7:30PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8-10 Pancake Breakfast 11-3 Thrift Shop</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10am Sunday Service Second Sunday of Advent 11:15 Stephen Ministries 12:00 Missions 5:00 Pot Luck 6:00 Advent Wreath</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30-6:30 Daisys</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11 – 3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11 – 3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:30PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8-1 CNK “Breakfast with Santa” 11 – 3 Thrift Shop</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10am Sunday Service Third Sunday of Advent 4:00 Girl Scouts 5-6:30 Juniors</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 Council Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11 – 3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11-3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:30PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11 – 3 Thrift Shop</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10am Sunday Service Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>23</p> <p>January Newsletter Deadline 5:30-6:30 Daisys (office opened 8-12)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>7PM Service (office closed)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>(office closed)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11-3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7-9 Crafters 7:30 Choir (office closed)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11-3 Thrift Shop</p> <p>7:30PM AA Meeting (office closed)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11 – 3 Thrift Shop 11-12:30 “Reading of the Pembroke Resolves”</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10am Sunday Service 5:00-6:30 Juniors</p>	<p>30</p> <p>(office opened 8-12)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year’s Eve (office closed)</p>				