

First Church in Pembroke

January 2020 Newsletter

Upcoming Event

January 2nd -7:00 Nominating
Committee Meeting

January 4th – 8-10am Pancake
Breakfast

January 6th -7:00pm Event Planning
Meeting

January 7th-7:00pm Special Church
Council Meeting

January 14th -7:30pm Deacons
Meeting

January 15th –7:30pm Special Church
Council Meeting

**January 20th Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day (office closed)**

**January 21st -7:30pm Trustees
Meeting**

January 26th -11:30am Annual
Meeting

January 28th -7:30 Church Council
Meeting

Recurring Event

Every Thursday
Creative Workshop-7pm

Choir Practice – 7:30pm

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Thrift Shop 11am -3pm

Pastor's Corner

This is the last Sunday of 2019. Next Sunday is the year of our Lord 2020. My guess is that for some of us that hardly seems possible. Wasn't it just yesterday when we were in a tizzy over Y2K and the beginning of a new millennium? On the other hand, it seems like a life-time ago. Besides, according to the ballyhooed Mayan calendar, the world should have ended December 21, 2012. And according to Hal Lindsay and The Late, Great Planet Earth and numerous Left Behind books by Tim LaHaye, we should all have been raptured by now. So what are we doing getting ready to celebrate the year 2020?

I hope we are approaching the New Year with a positive attitude. It is said that Christopher Columbus kept a diary on his way to the New World. It was not an easy voyage. The men were on the verge of mutiny. Many of them wanted to turn around. Yet every day the last entry that he would write in his log was: "Today we moved westward!"

I sincerely hope that by this time next year that we have moved forward. "Though it hasn't been an easy year, and some of us have had quite a difficult year, we can still move forward, if not physically or financially, at least mentally and spiritually. And with God's help, 2020 will be our best year yet. That is my prayer for each of you and for our church community.

Blessings,

Rev. Fred

Pancake Breakfast

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 January 4th !!!

Dear Friends. As many of you may know, as of December 31, 2019, I retired from my position as Treasurer of the First Church in Pembroke. I became Treasurer back in 1998 (I believe) when Dave Clarke was the pastor, and a good friend of mine. I had moved on from pastoral work, had the time, and was already Treasurer of several organizations. Pembroke needed a Treasurer, Dave called, and I said yes. a position I have held since.

I have enjoyed my work over 21 years on behalf of the church. I have experienced the ups and downs that any organization goes through over time. I have witnessed the commitment and hard work of a few on behalf of the many. In February of 2006, I became the quarter-time pastor of the First Congregational Church in Rockland. Over the next 14 years we have shared a "partnership", a unique relationship of your Treasurer also being the Pastor of a church! Through it all, I have been grateful for the mutual support and for ability to serve in both capacities.

At the December 2019 Trustees meeting I was presented a card signed by the Board as well as a beautiful church plate, "in the pewter style." It will be a visual reminder in my study at home of my presence with you. Thank you, and may God bless your journey toward healing and the calling a new settled pastor. May abundant blessings be yours in 2020 and beyond.

Shalom, Rev. Alan

Trustees

Happy New Year! The Trustees met on December 10, 2019. The financials were presented by Alan C with minor corrections that were accepted. All financial information has been transferred to Burt which will be looked at and filed. Burt is still working on QuickBooks. They are still looking for 2018 information that is not necessary.

The Rev. Bob Naylor was scheduled to meet with a small group of Trustees and Diaconate to discuss the healing process for the church. The conference will pay for this counseling. Rev Meade will be with us through June unless a settled pastor is found. The search is waiting for more candidates.

CNK is managing through the illness of Jean Holland.

Parsonage work has slowed down at this time, we still have a lot of work to complete. The plywood that was stored there has disappeared, we will be looking into that. Accessories are in the process of being bought to make the parsonage livable in case Rev. Meade needs to be there or our settled Pastor. The Thrift Shop has been very generous giving us items for the parsonage, Thank You Judy! Electrical work will be done this month, 35 electrical plugs will be replaced, installation of a mirror and a light over the vanity in the upstairs bathroom. After the holiday we will continue with the remaining issues. Updates need to be added to the spreadsheet. The sanctuary ceiling painting is progressing with contacting more companies.

All functions of the church that require funding will first go to the event committee to determine costs/profit, etc. and then to the council for final approval. The committee running the event will then proceed. No function will take place without council's approval. You can find the fundraising kit in the church office.

Budgets and Annual Reports need to be finalized and in by January 8, 2020, so that they will be ready for the congregation 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting scheduled for January 26, 2020. Follow up on the fire alarm system, cameras, sign, CPC, etc. is ongoing. Trustees next meeting is January 20, 2020

Missions

Here we are finishing up the month of December 2019. Our "Mickey Mouse" zippie bags with stretch pant, leggings and sweats in them were given to the Pembroke Community Center. The total collected was 31. Last year we had 59. All is well, the center appreciated all that were received. Thank you to everyone who filled a zip bag.

On Sunday the 22nd, Missions after Sunday service had a little something special for our coffee Hour after church. There was Christmas cake, cheese and crackers, egg nog, hot chocolate with marshmallows and of course our usual cookies and brownies. Our choir director, Mary Beth Courtright and our choir put together a Christmas carol sing-a long and we even had Santa Claus visit. All enjoyed being together for Christian fellowship. Praise God for his many blessing and sending us His precious son Jesus.

Veterans of the Cross collection was completed with a donation from the congregation as well as the purchase of Christmas ornaments. All the monies went to support the "Veteran of the Cross program", \$200. Thank you again to all who gave as this is a fine program which supports retirees that have served the Lord.

Looking forward to 2020, Missions program starts the New Year with "Helping Neighbors in Need". Once again, thank you for your caring and loving kindness to others.

Blessing, Freda Burke and the Missions Committee

I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. Psalm 40:1

The **Deacons** wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year! We hope that all were able to enjoy a blessed and peaceful Christmas and that our Advent and Christmas Eve services helped to make the season more meaningful.

You may have noticed a change in the way our altar candles are lit and extinguished. The acolytes now carry in a lit taper before the service begins, bringing the light of Christ into the Sanctuary, to light the altar candles. When the service is ended they carry in an unlit taper and light it from the altar candle before the altar candle is extinguished. Removing the lit taper from the church symbolizes that the service is ended.

We are grateful to Pastor Fred for leading our worship through the past months and into the next months.

Would you like to participate in the service by reading the First Reading? Please see Jay Hodge or another Deacon to be put on the schedule. Everyone is encouraged to take part! The Deacons remain a constant in preparing the sanctuary and seeing that our services run smoothly even as our church undergoes change and self reflection. May 2020 bless all of us and First Church.

Stewardship

Happy New Year from the Stewardship Team. Although we greet you as members of the "Stewardship Team" we are not the only "Stewards" of our Church. Each member and friend of First Church is a steward, a caregiver, of the church and our continuing support and care of it is vital. Our campaign this fall was called "The Way" as Jesus said "I am the way, and the truth, and the life..." - John 14:6. We have many reasons for following Jesus' way - our own spiritual growth, helping others, because we love First Church and want to help it grow in mission and membership. Our formal pledge campaign has ended. Many, many thanks to those of you who have pledged your financial support for the coming year. We celebrate your spirit of generosity and remind those of you who are still considering making a pledge that supporting the church not only helps in our planning of the budget but will help you to grow in faith and generosity. If we all follow "The Way" great things can happen.

Pledge update as of 12/8/19: 31 pledges General Fund: \$63,526
Missions: \$6,458

First Church Pembroke – January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 4:00 Nominating Committee Meeting 7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir	3 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	4 8-10 Pancake Breakfast 11-3 Thrift Shop
5 10am Sunday Service	6 7:00 Event Planning Meeting	7 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Special Church Council Meeting	8 Annul Reports Due 5:15-6:30 Cub scouts	9 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir	10 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 4-5:30 Juniors 7:30PM AA Meeting	11 11 – 3 Thrift Shop
12 10am Sunday Service	13	14 7:30 Deacons Meeting	15 7:00 Special Church Council Meeting	16 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir	17 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	18 11 – 3 Thrift Shop
19 10am Sunday Service	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (office closed)	21 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 Trustees Meeting	22 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts	23 11-3 Thrift Shop 7-9 Crafters 7:30 Choir	24 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	25 11 – 3 Thrift Shop
26 10am Sunday Service 11:30 Annul Meeting	27	28 7:30 Church Council Meeting	29	30 11-3 Thrift Shop 7-9 Crafters 7:30 Choir	31 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	11-3 Thrift Shop